



Mounted policemen on the alert yesterday during a demonstration by Arab students in downtown Jerusalem protesting violent attacks on Arabs and calling for a Palestinian state. (Burtmann)

Peretz to seek rehearing before five justices

Miller case 'not a precedent'

By HAIM SHAPIRO
Jerusalem Post Reporter

The Interior Ministry will not accept the Shoshana Miller case as a precedent, according to Interior Minister Yitzhak Peretz, and any non-Orthodox converts who apply to be registered as Jews in the future will have to go through the same lengthy court procedure that Miller, a Reform convert, did.

This emerged from an interview with Peretz in the ultra-Orthodox weekly *Erev Shabbat*, which appears this morning. Peretz told the paper that he intends to apply for a rehearing of the Miller case before a panel of five justices, now that the High Court of Justice has ruled that the ministry may not add the word "convert" to an identity card.

Peretz still hopes that before other

petitions are heard, he will see the passage of an amendment to the Who Is a Jew law or the Rabbinical Courts law, which in effect would stop non-Orthodox converts from being registered as Jews.

If all this fails, Peretz can fall back on the advice given him Tuesday night by Rabbi Eliezer Schach, the spiritual mentor of Peretz's Shas party. Schach reportedly said that the identity card is a secular document, of no religious significance. This view would presumably quiet the voices calling on Peretz to resign rather than allow any Reform convert to be considered a Jew.

Erev Shabbat also cited a source in the Interior Ministry saying that the ministry had yesterday passed Shoshana Miller's name on to the Religious Affairs Ministry, to be

added to the list of people ineligible for a religious marriage. This list contains not only the names of non-Orthodox converts, but also of *mamzerim* (children of a married woman and a man other than her husband) and of *kohanim* who desire to marry divorcees. The list is for use by the rabbinical courts.

Peretz yesterday was said to be furious with Sephardic Chief Rabbi Mordechai Eliahu who criticized Peretz's handling of the Miller case by allegedly saying that the Interior Minister should confine himself to serving as rabbi of Ramatana. An aide to Eliahu said yesterday that the chief rabbi had been misquoted, and had merely indicated that Peretz was a fine rabbi.

The Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi Avra- (Continued on Back Page)

'Helped CIA, NSC skirt Congress restrictions'

U.S. officials charge Israel has aided Contras 'for years'

By WOLF BLITZER
Jerusalem Post Correspondent

WASHINGTON. — At the request of the Reagan administration, Israel has for several years maintained a covert connection to the Contras fighting the Sandinista regime in Nicaragua, authoritative U.S. officials said yesterday.

This clandestine support to the Contras, which is said to have included the limited supply of light weapons and ammunition captured in Lebanon, was fully coordinated with both the Central Intelligence Agency and the National Security Council, the officials said.

CIA Director William Casey and other CIA and NSC officials, including former operative Oliver North, reportedly pressed Israel very hard to help the U.S. and other "friendly parties" skirt around Congress-imposed restrictions on arming the Contras.

In order to further demonstrate Israel's value as a "strategic ally," U.S. officials said, the Israeli government was prepared to cooperate quietly with the scheme. But Israel, very concerned about Congress, strongly appealed to the U.S. to keep the Israeli connection secret.

The Israeli government has repeatedly denied that it has supported the Contras. On Tuesday, Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin told the Knesset



Amiram Nir (Media) that Israel "does not maintain contacts or ties with the rebels in Nicaragua, nor does it supply arms from here to them. Israel did not grant permission to any Israeli to assist, supply know-

how or sell weapons from Israel to the rebels in Nicaragua."

But U.S. officials yesterday said that several private Israeli arms dealers operating in Central America and other Israeli "cutouts" were used by the Israeli government to assist the rebels.

"Cutouts" are known in the intelligence community as private front companies and operatives not formally linked to a government. They are used to enable a government to maintain official "deniability." There was extensive use of "cutouts" in the transfer of U.S. arms to Iran.

Israeli government officials were always very careful in conducting this clandestine policy in order to avoid angering Congress. But there is already a growing conviction in Congress that Israel has not been completely honest in describing its alleged Contra ties. This will be the core focus of the U.S. Special Counsel's full-scale investigation of the Iran arms-Contra funding scheme.

Congressional sources said that Israel's overall credibility was severely damaged in recent weeks after Israel finally confirmed what it had earlier steadfastly denied — namely, that it was involved in selling arms to Iran over an extended period of time.

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 1)

IN PERSON BENNY MORRIS

Inouye: U.S.-Israel ties not threatened

Senator Daniel Inouye, who last night was tipped as a possible chairman for a joint congressional committee to investigate the Iran arms scandal, said yesterday that he did not see the affair damaging U.S.-Israel relations.

"Speaking for myself, I don't believe the facts as I see them could justify any conclusion that

Jerusalem: Nir didn't know

By BENNY MORRIS
Post Diplomatic Correspondent

The government yesterday firmly denied that the prime minister's adviser on terrorism, Amiram Nir, had known about the transfer of funds from the sales of arms to Iran to the Nicaraguan Contra guerrillas.

Reacting to yesterday's story in *The Jerusalem Post* that former U.S. security official Col. Oliver North had reportedly told Nir about the Nicaraguan destination of the Iranian payments, the prime minister's spokesman announced that "there is no foundation whatsoever to this report."

The announcement went on to say that "from what Lt. Colonel North (in fact) told Nir, the latter could not have gathered that the funds which the Iranian representative transferred to the American account, or part of them, were destined for the Contras."

TEL AVIV. — A Nicaraguan delegation due to arrive here as a guest of Mapam's kibbutz movement has cancelled its visit, without explaining whether this step is connected with reports that Israel transferred money to Nicaraguan rebels.

The delegation, composed of supporters of the Sandinista regime, was to have toured Kibbutz Ha'arzi farms and facilities and to have attended lectures, chiefly on agriculture.

been initiated by Peres. Recent published criticism of Nir, as well as Trade and Industry Minister Ariel Sharon's call for an internal investigation of the affair, have been construed by political circles as indirect attacks on Peres, who appointed Nir to the post in 1984.

The inner cabinet apparently agreed to give American investigators access to the Israeli officials involved in the arms deal, should Washington officially request such access. Israeli officials last night declined to say whether the government would allow the Americans to question Shamir, Peres and Rabin — the three ministers who decided on cooperation with the U.S. in the arms deals — should Washington seek to question them. The officials said that the question was still "hypothetical."

The U.S. has still not formally (Continued on Back Page)

Milestone ruling on brain death

By MENACHEM SHALEV
Jerusalem Post Reporter

The Supreme Court yesterday rendered a milestone judgement by determining, for the first time in Israel's legal history, that death occurs with the cessation of brain activity.

The Court rejected the appeal of Nathan Belker who was convicted in 1982 of murdering his wife by throwing her out of a fourth floor apartment. Belker's attorneys had argued that since the woman had suffered "brain death" as a result of the fall, her actual death was caused only when she had been subsequently disconnected from the heart-lung machine in the hospital.

After reviewing the legal and scientific definitions of death in 17 countries, Justice Moshe Bejsky determined that contrary to the cessation of lung and heart activity, which can be revived in some cases, brain death is irreversible. The death of the brain, he wrote, will inevitably silence the heart and the lungs unless these are artificially sustained.

Bejsky devoted a substantial part of his judgment to *halacha* (religious law) and called on rabbinical leaders "not to ignore what is universally accepted in the medical world." Bejsky also criticized the lack of Knesset legislation on the determination of death and on organ transplants.

Bejsky wrote that more than one doctor is needed to determine death, and that these doctors should not be a part of a team which will perform an organ transplant. He also called for more medical tests to be carried out before a final definition of "brain death" is formulated.

The judgment was received with universal satisfaction in the medical world. Hadassah Medical School Dean Prof. Marcel Elyakim told *The Jerusalem Post* that "there is now a consensus between the doctors, the rabbis and the court." He said that the decision "would make life easier for doctors" and would encourage more transplant operations.

Sources close to the chief rabbinic said that they saw "no contradiction" between the decision and the halachic ruling issued by the Chief Rabbinate Council on November 5. This ruling, on heart transplants, recognized that damage to the brain leads to irreversible cessation of breathing. But it added other stipulations such as a 12-hour hiatus before death is determined, and the inclusion of a "religious doctor" in the team declaring a person dead.

Former chief rabbi Shlomo Goren told *The Post* that the court decision "absolutely conforms with halacha." He said that it was "a rare and satisfying achievement" that uniformity of opinion had been achieved "on such a crucial matter."

Local government blasted as 'jungle of mismanagement'

By MENACHEM SHALEV
Jerusalem Post Reporter

A jungle of mismanagement and improprieties thriving under the negligent eyes of the Interior Ministry is depicted in the annual State Comptroller's report on local government released today.

Follow-up investigations by the comptroller have revealed that nothing much is ever done to rectify the rampant misuse of public funds that has been revealed in previous reports.

The findings include a payment by the Herzliya municipality to one of its employees for 310 accumulated leave days in 1982 and payment for an additional 369 days the following year.

In his introduction to the 350-page report, State Comptroller Yitzhak Tunik points to a "dismal picture" of "unacceptable norms which have taken root in many local authorities." Local councils and municipalities freely distribute unauthorized — and extremely generous — wage and pension benefits to their employees, especially senior ones; government decisions on budget cuts are blissfully ignored; grants are distributed to institutions for no apparent reason and with no effort made to ascertain how the funds are being used; and ulterior motives dominate many local council decisions.

In many cases, the ministry knew about the improprieties well before the comptroller stepped in but did not intervene, writes Tunik. He accused it of being derelict in its supervision of local authorities.

□ SALARIES. Contrary to a government decision and Interior Ministry directives, most municipalities increased outlays on wages even if they had reduced their staffs. Tel Aviv had 200 fewer workers in 1984 than in the previous year, but the 6,252 remaining ones enjoyed average pay hikes, in real terms, of 20 per cent.

The government decided on a 25 per cent cut in overtime pay, but none of the 13 municipalities complied. Rishon LeZion exceeded its allocation by 75 per cent, or \$114,900.

In January, 1984, the Interior Ministry ordered a halt to global overtime payments. None of the municipalities complied.

All municipalities pay benefits to which the workers are not entitled. Jerusalem pays a 25 per cent "exertion bonus" to 126 "chief janitors and janitor supervisors."

□ SENIOR EMPLOYEES. The salaries of 300 senior local government employees were checked by the comptroller. Most earn much more than their counterparts in government ministries.

Between 1982 and 1985, 35 per cent of the senior workers received pay hikes of between 20-40 per cent; 13 per cent got 40-70 per cent more; and a lucky nine per cent had pay hikes of over 70 per cent.

The comptroller calls these generous benefits for senior workers "a flagrant and wholesale" violation of the law.

□ PENSIONS. Many local councils (Continued on Page 4)



Senator Inouye (Rahamim Israeli)

American-Israeli relations will be weakened or damaged," he said.

The U.S., he indicated, expects full Israeli cooperation with the investigations that have begun in Washington. The Israeli government has already indicated that it will enable the investigators to question the Israeli officials involved. Will the U.S. also seek to question the cabinet ministers involved — Yitzhak Shamir, Shimon Peres and Yitzhak Rabin? "If the investigation of this matter is to be pressed to a solution, all parties involved should be invited to assist. 'Invited to assist' is the operative phrase. But of course, Israel is a sovereign country and we in the U.S. are fully cognizant of this," says Inouye.

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 5)

3 members of 'revenge team' get life

Three members of a self-appointed revenge squad who murdered an Arab taxi driver in retaliation for the terrorist murder of a Jewish taxi driver, were sentenced to life in prison by the Jerusalem District Court yesterday.

The three are Dani Eisenman, a policeman; Gil Fuchs, a soldier who served at a secret base in the south; and Michal Hillel, a student. The three used to meet early last year in a Jerusalem bar, where they decided to set up a group to retaliate for Arab terror attacks.

When cab driver David Caspi was murdered by terrorists in April, they decided to take revenge.

On the night of the murder, Eisenman and Hillel got in a Jerusalem taxi driven by Hamis Tatanji, while Fuchs followed them in Eisenman's police vehicle.

When they reached Ma'ale Adumim, they ordered Tatanji out of the car, and shot him three times with the M-16 issued to Fuchs.

When the verdict was announced, the families of the three burst into tears and vowed that they would get them out of jail in the same way that some members of the Jewish terror underground have been released. (Tm).

Symptomatic of 'left-wing erosion' Sharon lashes Oscar entry

By DVORAH GETZLER
Post Knesset Reporter

Industry and Trade Minister Ariel Sharon yesterday launched a scathing attack on the choice of *Avanti Popolo* as Israel's entry for the Oscar competition for foreign films. The film concerns an encounter between Israelis and Egyptian soldiers in the Sinai desert in 1957.

But the issue was broader than that particular film, Sharon told the Knesset plenum. The choice of the film, by a committee of professionals and public figures, was symptomatic of the "constant erosion" of all things Jewish and Israeli by the left-wing, bohemian, intelligentsia, he said.

Asked whether he would say the same about *Two Fingers from Sidon* (a film about the Lebanese War), Sharon said neither film was to his taste. The distributors of the latter have a petition pending in the High Court of Justice claiming that the choice of *Avanti Popolo* was made by interested parties.

Sharon angrily recalled what he termed the derisive media accounts of the ceremony at Ben-Gurion Airport when then premier Menachem Begin had left on his first trip abroad as premier.

"They laughed at Begin's bowing to the flag. But when Sadat kissed the Egyptian flag at the ceremony in which we handed back the Santa Katerina Monastery in Sinai, the commentator's voice shook with emotion. That's the real nub of our problem."

Answering a motion for the agenda moved by the Likud's Uzi Landau, who roundly condemned the choice of the film, Sharon said that four of the seven films submitted to the committee had political subjects. "That in itself shows something is wrong with our society," he said.

The Oscar board requires the national committees to choose entries purely on artistic merit. Sharon said he had no power to intervene.

"Then change the committee," suggested Tehiya's Yuval Ne'eman.

Arens names his new aide on Arabs

By ELAINE RUTH FLETCHER
and DAVID RUDGE
Minister-without-Portfolio Moshe Arens yesterday named former deputy head of military intelligence, Amos Gilboa, to replace Dr. Yosef Ginat as his senior adviser on Israel's minority communities.

Ginat asserted that he was removed because his close identification with Arens's predecessor, Ezer Weizman, was politically unacceptable to Arens's Likud bloc.

But Arens's decision to name Gilboa, rather than reappoint the Likud's former Arab affairs advisor Binyamin Gur-Arye, also signalled Arens's desire to set his own course in his new post. The office was perceived as an inactive department under Likud governments prior to 1984.

Gilboa, 47, currently a senior Middle East political and defence analyst for *Ma'ariv*, has little experience with Israeli Arabs, said Arab leaders yesterday in reacting to the appointment.

"There's a great deal of suspicion now in the Arab sector about Arens and his new adviser, and many people fear a deterioration in relations," said veteran Acre town councillor Ramzi Khouri.

In his IDF post as head of research in the intelligence branch, Gilboa specialized in Syria and Iraq. Colleagues describe him as an astute thinker and political pragmatist.

They say he skillfully led the ill-fated Nakoura talks in 1984 that sought a negotiated settlement with the Lebanese government.

Gilboa said his prior experience with the Arab world would allow him to look at the problems of Israel's Arabs and other minorities "not in a narrow perspective, but in the broader sphere of the territories, the Palestinian problem and the Middle East."

"I accepted Arens's offer mainly because I see in this job a national mission to cope with one of the most

serious problems in Israel," Gilboa added.

Ginat, meanwhile, denied a statement by Arens that he had resigned by "mutual agreement," saying he learned of his dismissal via a radio broadcast yesterday morning.

Ginat said a senior official in the Prime Minister's Office told him several weeks ago that his replacement was inevitable because he had served under Weizman.

Other sources said that Ginat's position as a member of the Labour Party's Central Committee and an activist for Labour in the Arab sector during the last elections made him politically unacceptable to Arens's senior aide.

Arens said Ginat's replacement was "connected to course to the political situation," but declined to elaborate.

Ginat, 50, said he would continue teaching at Haifa University and write books on Arab society.

Ginat said he hoped that Arens would soon respond to proposals

made by his office on the problem of illegal building in the Arab sector and the resettlement of residents of Ikrat and Biram, expelled by the IDF in 1948 and never allowed to return.

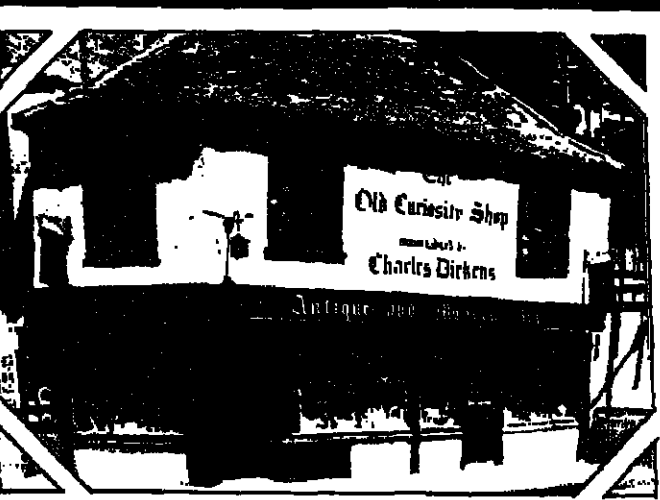
Arens said he is still studying both proposals. He said his first major project would be to draw up a set of policy "guidelines" for Israel's minority communities to bring before the cabinet for approval.

He said the government has never operated according to guidelines in this area.

"Policies concerning minority citizens must not be the policy of one man, even if he is minister, or of one party," said Arens. "I am trying to obtain a consensus."

Arens said Israel had made a great deal of progress under difficult circumstances in advancing its minorities. "But we have a long way to go to provide (them) with feelings of equality, identification, loyalty and partnership."

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The weather at major Swissair destinations

3.12.86

	MIN.	MAX.
AMSTERDAM	5-11	13
BRUSSELS	6-13	14
BUEENOS AIRES	14-21	24
CHICAGO	2-8	10
COPENHAGEN	6-12	14
FRANKFURT	6-12	14
GENEVA	5-11	13
HELSINKI	5-11	13
HONGKONG	16-22	24
JOHANNESBURG	16-22	24
LEON	9-15	17
LONDON	9-15	17
MADRID	9-15	17
MONTREAL	9-15	17
NEW YORK	2-8	10
OSLO	1-7	9
PARIS	6-12	14
RIO DE JANEIRO	23-29	31
SAO PAULO	19-25	27
STOCKHOLM	6-12	14
TOKYO	8-14	16
TORONTO	1-7	9
VIENNA	5-11	13
ZURICH	5-11	13

*For the latest weather conditions contact Swissair.

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THE WEATHER

Forecast: Partly cloudy.

	Yesterday's	Today's	Max
Jerusalem	30	6-11	14
Golan	46	2-10	13
Nahariya	43	7-15	16
Safed	37	2-7	10
Haifa Port	35	9-17	19
Tiberias	34	7-17	20
Nazareth	34	6-11	14
Afula	41	2-10	13
Sharon	43	4-14	16
Tel Aviv	46	10-18	19
B-G Airport	49	8-18	20
Jericho	35	6-17	19
Caesarea	57	11-19	20
Beersheba	43	16	18
Eilat	27	8-21	22

SOCIAL & PERSONAL

Histadrut Comptroller, Naphtali Blumenthal, will deliver the second part of his lecture on the Israeli economy to the Rotary Club weekly meeting at the Tel Aviv Hilton at 1:15 p.m. today.

Belgian Education Minister Andre Damsseaux and his wife and their party yesterday visited the Weizmann Institute of Science where they were received by acting-president Prof. Shmuel Shalizi. They also met with Prof. William Taub and Richard Hornreich.

An eight-day international symposium on the importance of Scientific and Technological Research for the Development of Modern Society, organized by the Uruguayan Ministry of Education and Culture, the Weizmann Institute of Science, Spain's Superior Council for Scientific Research, and the National Commission for Science and Technology of Argentina, opened yesterday at the Legislative Palace in Montevideo, in the presence of Uruguay's Vice-President Dr. Enrique Tarigo.

Some 60 scientists from 14 countries are participating. The Weizmann Institute is represented by its president Prof. Aryeh Dvoretzky, Prof. Israel Dostrovsky, Mr. David Moushine and Prof. Nelson Pilosof, Institute representative general for Latin America, Spain and Portugal.

ARRIVALS

Dr. and Mrs. Sam Lawson, England, guests of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, to participate in the Ben-Gurion Centennial Celebrations.

HOME AND FOREIGN NEWS

Sea captain sentenced to suspended jail term

By YA'ACOV FRIEDLER

HAIFA. - Merchant Navy Captain Avner Gilad was yesterday sentenced to a two-year suspended jail term for forcing a black stowaway over the side of his ship, off the coast of Mozambique, in March 1982.

District Court Judge Amnon Carmi, who last week found Avner guilty of causing injury in aggravated circumstances and transporting a man in a dangerous vessel (an improvised raft), said he would have given him a long jail term if there had been proof that the stowaway had drowned or come to grief. But as it could be assumed that he had reached shore safely, he did not consider jail necessary.

The ship's third officer, Ron Gur-finkel, 30 who was found guilty of abetting the captain in putting the man on the raft, was given a six

month suspended sentence for his role in the affair.

In his sentencing, Judge Carmi condemned Gilad's "lack of moral sensibility" but said that since he had taken steps to assure that the stowaway would reach a safe haven - by supplying him with a life-jacket and food, and dropping him close to shore - the trial and the conviction were punishment enough.

He contrasted Gilad's behaviour with that of the crew who had refused to take part in the action. Two ordinary seamen had testified to their anguish at the time, while the wife of a Yugoslav officer on board had reportedly rebuked the action, saying, "How can you, a people of refugees, do such a thing?"

Prosecutor Hanna Lapid had asked for a jail term for Gilad, "as a deterrent and warning to seamen

who believed this was the way to handle stowaways."

Gilad, a 59 year old grandfather and member of Kibbutz Nahsholim, had an unblemished sea record dating from pre-state days. He reacted to the sentence with tears but would not comment to reporters.

His attorney, Shimon Tessler, said he was satisfied with the sentence though not with the conviction, and would consider appealing it. He said the absence of laws or regulations governing the problem of stowaways was the real culprit in the case. He hoped that the Transport Ministry would quickly promulgate such regulations and refrain from suing Gilad on disciplinary charges before a maritime court. He also hoped that Gilad would be allowed to continue to serve with the kibbutz-owned Tarshish shipping company.



The three convicted murderers of Jerusalem taxi-driver Hamis Tatanji are escorted by police outside the Jerusalem District Court yesterday after sentencing. (See story page 1.) (Isaac Harari)

Belgium opens inquiry into arms sales to Iran

BRUSSELS (Reuter). - The Belgian government yesterday ordered an inquiry into reports that Belgium-made arms have been reaching Iran regularly since the start of its war with Iraq.

The independent daily *Le Soir*, in a report from Copenhagen, said it had evidence that the major Belgian arms maker Fabrique Nationale (FN) was "even unknowingly and indirectly, among the principal regular suppliers of Iran (with arms)."

This followed reports in other Belgian newspapers that Belgium was one of several western states, in addition to the U.S., that had broken an embargo on sales to Tehran.

Last week, Belgian Foreign Minis-

ter Leo Tindemans dismissed the earlier reports, saying Belgium had sold only two sporting guns to Iran since the embargo was imposed in 1980.

Le Soir cited reports of Danish seamen, either first hand or through their trade union, an organization close to the Danish Communist Party.

An FN spokesman said that since the arms ban, his company had never knowingly sent military equipment to Iran, although it could not be certain that none of its clients had passed on FN arms to Tehran.

In Tunis, interior ministers from Arab countries adopted a resolution yesterday denouncing arms deals between the U.S., Israel and Iran.

TV on, for now...

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

Jerusalem Post Reporter

Television broadcasts resumed last night after nights of blackout and will continue without disruptions for at least another fortnight. National Labour Court president Justice Menahem Goldberg yesterday supervised four hours of negotiations between the Broadcasting Authority management and television staff representatives, which ended with the signing of an interim agreement.

Under its terms, television will operate according to the restored shifts which have been in force during the past two months, and staffers will be compensated for the loss of overtime earnings.

UN resolution calls for international Mideast parley

By WALTER RUBY

NEW YORK. - The UN General Assembly passed by a wide margin late Tuesday a resolution on the Palestinian question which included a call for an international conference on the Middle East.

The resolution passed 123-3 (the U.S., Israel and Antigua voting against), with 19 nations abstaining. It included an amendment introduced by the Soviet Union regarding "the setting up of a preparatory committee within the framework of the Security Council with the participation of the Council's permanent members to take the necessary action to convene the (international) conference."

Israel sources pointed out that this year's resolution, in contrast to a 1985 resolution, contained no condemnation of either Israel or the U.S. According to a spokesman for the Israeli mission to the UN, "It is significant that to pass a resolution of this type, the Soviets and Arabs now feel it necessary to drop their condemnations of Israel."

Tomatoes in, Weizman out

By ANDY COURT

Acting Agriculture Minister Ezer Weizman resigned from his position yesterday over a decision to import tomatoes from Europe.

Weizman decided on Sunday not to import 100 tons of tomatoes which Agriculture Minister Aryeh Nehamkin, now on a 10-day tour of the U.S. had approved before he left the country. But Finance Minister Moshe Nissim, who has pushed for the imports in order to lower the price of tomatoes and thus of the cost of living index, called Nehamkin in the U.S. and convinced him to reaffirm his earlier decision, according to Agriculture Ministry spokesman Naftali Yaniv.

"Weizman did not consult with Nehamkin but made his own decision," Yaniv said. "Unfortunately there is still a shortage of tomatoes because of the rain."

The 100 tons, which should arrive from Spain or Portugal on Monday, represent about six per cent of Israel's weekly tomato consumption, Yaniv said. But Nehamkin has also given permission for another 200 tons to be imported later, if the shortage persists.

Yaniv's claim that Weizman never consulted Nehamkin contradicts Weizman's version of the affair, according to his spokesman, Aryeh Shumer. Shumer said that Nehamkin had spoken on the phone with Deputy Agriculture Minister Avraham Katz-Of, and Director-General Meir Ben Meir, and had agreed with Weizman's change of policy.

Herzog's visit to Germany 'would show flag of renescent Jewish state'

By DVORAH GETZLER

Post Knesset Reporter

Despite the complicated relationship between Israel and Germany, there were sound reasons for President Chaim Herzog's planned visit to Germany to go ahead, Minister-without-Portfolio Ezer Weizman told the Knesset yesterday.

Replying for Foreign Minister Shimon Peres to five motions for the agenda on the forthcoming presidential visit, Weizman scored the logic of Likud MK Eliahu Ben-Elissar's argument that the time was not ripe for such a visit "in our generation." That, said Weizman, was tantamount to saying that time would do its work, which was surely not what Ben-Elissar had meant. Quoting Herzog, he said "the future cannot be determined only by the past."

There was moral value, said the minister, in showing the flag of the renescent Jewish state in Germany, and in having the national anthem played there "even if it's played by the sons of Nazis," he said in answer to a comment by Amnon Linn (Alignment).

Herzog's visit, said Weizman, should serve to remind young Germans, and Israelis too, of the tragedy

KNESSET ROUNDUP

of the Holocaust.

By a show-of-hands vote, the motions, three against the visit and two in favour, were removed from the agenda of the Knesset.

Demo ban defended

Only a thin line separates an uncontrolled demonstration from anarchy, said Police Minister Haim Bar-Lev.

Bar-Lev was replying to a motion by Tehiya's Genua Cohen who was protesting against the police decision, announced some days ago, to forbid demonstrations in Jerusalem's Old City.

The decision, said Bar-Lev, was intended to preserve democracy, not undermine it.

Far from restoring the Green Line in Jerusalem, as Cohen claimed, the decision was intended to preserve the unity of the city by preventing a recurrence of the anti-Arab violence that persisted for two weeks after the murder of yeshiva student Eliahu Amedi.

Answering another motion for the agenda on the work of the police,

Bar-Lev said the police budget and work-force size had been frozen for the past 10 years. Nevertheless, crime was decreasing. European countries register twice as much crime per capita as Israel, and the U.S. has five times more crime. Israel with Sweden and Japan, has one of the lowest crime rates in the world Bar-Lev said.

Legal proposals

The Knesset considered several new proposals including an amendment that would sharply reduce the number of arrests made for 48 hours to facilitate police investigations and a bill that would permit dying persons to determine that their lives not be needlessly and painfully prolonged.

Another proposed amendment would enable Israel to prosecute persons for crimes against the Jewish people even if the crimes were not committed on enemy territory.

All three proposals are to go to the relevant committee for further discussion.

The Knesset will hold a full-scale debate - at some unspecified future time - to determine why no progress is being made on formulating a written constitution.

Police question Zichroni

By MENACHEM SHALEV

Jerusalem Post Reporter

Tel Aviv attorney Amnon Zichroni was questioned by the police in Ramat yesterday in connection with the PLO-Israeli leftist meeting which took place in Romania at the beginning of the month.

Zichroni, who was not called in as a "suspect," told Police Central District Investigations Officer, Nitzav-Mistne Sando Mazar, that he had been asked to accompany the leftist delegation to try and prevent any violation of the law. He refused to divulge the contents of his legal advice to the delegation, citing the confidentiality of the lawyer-client relationship.

Zichroni, who did not take part in the meetings with PLO officials, testified for ten minutes. He and Mazar discussed various aspects of the trip, and of the law prohibiting meetings with members of "terrorist organizations."

Police question Zichroni

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INOUE

(Continued from Page One)

Inouye, a Democrat from Hawaii, is the first senior American political figure to visit Israel since the start of the Iranian arms scandal. He is also, according to Prime Minister Shamir, "one of Israel's greatest friends in the U.S."

Adds Inouye: "I am convinced that the highest officials of Israel are not only prepared but willing to cooperate to the fullest extent while of course taking account of Israel's security interests and sovereignty."

Inouye prefers to avoid the "Watergate" analogy. Watergate he says, involved "burglary, dirty tricks, and, most important, a cover-up. In this case, as of this moment, there seems to be no cover-up, the president seems to be forthcoming, he is not resisting the appointment" of an investigator.

Asked whether the affair has damaged America's credibility in terms of the struggle against international terrorism, Inouye points out an accusing finger at the media. "The press and the media in general have succeeded in turning this matter into a scandal of monumental scale and as a result have harmed the credibility and integrity of my nation. If one takes a close look at headlines, say Inouye, one will often find that headlines - "with their innuendo and rumours" - are not substantiated by the smaller print that follows.

Inouye was instrumental in pushing through Congress the American allocation of \$250 million for the Lavi fighter project. Has he had second thoughts about this? "We're waiting for the General Accounting Office report on the Lavi costs. From what I know, it's an aircraft that appears to be well suited to the mission needs of the IDF. I gather there are alternatives [that is, U.S. proposals for an alternative plane, such as a co-produced F-16], but the effects [of such an alternative] on Israel's economy have to be taken into account. "It's a good project."

VIOLINS. - The town of Ma'alot has received forty-two miniature violins from the U.S. to enable children aged 3-6 to learn to play on the instruments according to the Suzuki method.

We mourn the loss of our brother and uncle

MOSHE MONTSA

The family in Jerusalem: Pinna Tsadika and sons Rafi and Shira Levy and daughters Shalom and Shula Soffer and sons Ezra and Levana Zengli and sons Eli and Gracia Monsa and sons Yehuda and Esther Ben-Yaacov and children Yitzhak and Esther Montsa Rabbai and Mrs. Avraham Monsa and family

Condolence visits at 91/1 Bar Kokhva.

We mourn the death of

Eng. VICTOR A. SALKIND

Pioneer of the Dead Sea Works and first scientific adviser at the Israeli embassy in Washington.

His funeral took place on December 2, 1986 at the Mt. of Olives cemetery, Jerusalem.

His relatives and friends

In deep sorrow we announce the death of our dear

MICHA SITTNER

who fell in the line of duty.

His mother: Ruth Sittner

His wife and children:

Ora, Ruti and Assa Sittner

Families: Pick, Orgler and Chana

The funeral took place yesterday, December 3, 1986.

In deep sorrow we announce the passing of our beloved mother and grandmother

TRUDE NEUMANN

after having reached a ripe old age.

The funeral will leave today, Thursday, December 4, 1986 at

2:30 p.m. from the Municipal Funeral Parlour,

5 Rehov Dafna, Tel Aviv for the Kiryat Shaul cemetery.

The Bereaved:

Yehudith Neeman

Chava and Reuben Goren

and all the family

20734-10-02

CONTRAS

Israeli arms deals with Iran, which were facilitated with the help of Saudi billionaire Adnan Khashoggi.

One U.S. official yesterday pointed to the "overlap" in U.S., Saudi and Israeli officials reportedly involved in the Iran arms deal and in the secret Contra support network. North, for example, was in charge of both.

Despite the latest Israeli denials, U.S. officials yesterday privately confirmed a report in *The Jerusalem Post* that North had reportedly told Justice Department investigators nearly two weeks ago that he had fully briefed Amir Nir, adviser to the prime minister on counterterrorism, on the Contra connection.

On the basis of what North had said during those initial rounds of questioning, both U.S. Attorney General Ed Meese and later President Reagan strongly implied that Israel knew that profits from the Iran arms sales were going to a secret Swiss bank account controlled by forces opposed to the Sandinistas.

Israeli officials, obviously anxious to limit any damage in Congress, have appealed to Meese. Secretary of State George Shultz and other administration policymakers to back off from the original allegations of Israeli involvement with the Contras. The Israeli Ambassador in Washington, Meir Rosenne, was instructed to express Israel's deep concern directly to Meese, who first spoke of the Israeli link to the Contra funding scheme one week ago.

Meese, according to authoritative U.S. sources, has privately explained that his remarks at the news conference and Reagan's subsequent comments in a *Time* magazine interview were based on what Meese had personally heard from North during those initial rounds of questioning. Meese has said that North was the only U.S. official who had "precise" knowledge of all aspects of the arrangements.

Meanwhile, *The Washington Post*

yesterday reported that the profits from the Iran arms sales have been traced to a Swiss bank account managed by the CIA, in which the U.S. and Saudi governments also deposited \$250 million each to underwrite rebels fighting Soviet troops in Afghanistan. Money from the account was also used to buy arms for the Contras.

"Money from the account in Switzerland was used to buy Soviet, Chinese and other arms from dealers in countries such as Israel, which were then shipped clandestinely to guerrillas in Afghanistan, and, more recently, to Contras in Nicaragua," the report said.

The Wall Street Journal yesterday reported that the Reagan administration tried to win the freedom of unnamed Israeli soldiers and the American hostages in Lebanon last May by offering a swap of some 300 Lebanese Shiite prisoners, a \$2 million ransom and a sale of military spare parts to Iran. "The deal collapsed when pro-Iranian militiamen in Lebanon refused to release the kidnapped Israeli soldiers," the report said. Israeli officials are said to have approved the release of the Shiite prisoners.

Vice President George Bush, in his first public statement on the Iran arms scandal, yesterday defended Reagan's dealings with Tehran and denied any knowledge of the transfer of money to the Contras.

"I'd like to say something about my role in all this. I was aware of our Iran initiative and I support the president's decision. I was not aware of and oppose any diversion of funds, any ransom payments, or any circumventions of the will of Congress," Bush said in a speech to the American Enterprise Institute public policy study group.

Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger said in Paris yesterday he was horrified to learn that profits from the Iran arms sales went to the Contras, and contends that it never should have happened.

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MK Hacohen lambasts Shas:

Coalition won't fall over Miller

By DVORAH GETZLER
Post Knesset Reporter

The High Court of Justice ruling ordering the Interior Ministry to register Reform convert Shoshana Miller as a Jew is likely to provoke "lots of coalition fireworks, but no big bomb that could blow the coalition apart," according to the Alignment's religious MK Rabbi Menachem Hacohen.

Hacohen was scathing about the Sephardi ultra-Orthodox Tora Guardians Party - Shas. They "never had it so good" as under the present national unity government of which they are members, he said. Shas leader Yitzhak Peretz is the interior minister who was defeated in court on Tuesday.

"They care only about their own cabbage patch, and they've enriched that enormously," Hacohen said. "They don't care at all about the state or about the future of the Jewish people as a whole."

"Assimilation doesn't worry them. They have their own institutions and their own very tightly knit community, which has little connection with the rest of the state. As long as they can win for that group the advantages they seek, they will remain in the coalition."

Their religious leadership - the *hachmei hatzura* - will surely now turn around and say that the identity card with its registration of nationality is meaningless. And indeed, what marriage registrar contents himself with the ID card? I know that when I'm in doubt [Hacohen is licensed to

perform marriages], there are ways to check a person's *halachic bona fides*."

Hacohen's solution would be to cancel the nationality registration in the ID card. "If the reason is security considerations, it's anachronistic," he said. He dismissed a claim put forward on Tuesday by Morasha's Avraham Verdiger that in the Jewish state one should take pride in being registered as a Jew. "An ID card is no place for a demonstration of national pride," according to Hacohen.

In response to a suggestion that the religious lobby in the Knesset would now rally its forces to amend the Law of Return so that *halachic* criteria become paramount in deciding who is a Jew, Hacohen said: "There is no religious lobby! They're all split. The Aguda knows such an attempt would endanger the coalition. Shas wouldn't want it because the amendment would mean handing a victory to the proposal's champions, the Lubavitch movement, who are their sworn enemies."

"The National Religious Party scarcely exists, and it too wouldn't want the coalition to fall. And Morasha - the old Poalei Agudat Yisrael, which is really Habad (the Lubavitch movement) - has no true backing among the electorate. Morasha doesn't want elections either."

"Of course, they will all raise the issue. They will push the government to the brink, maybe, but they won't push it over. And they will use

this dummy crisis to wring some further benefits, money, or some minor law."

"I see the main danger coming perhaps from what Ariel Sharon may try to do to exploit the situation. Shas is under his protection in the government, he and Peretz are very close. It was Peretz who intervened when Shimon Peres wanted to oust Sharon from the cabinet."

Hacohen sees Peretz as a tragic figure, torn between the moderate Sephardi world in which he grew up, and the demands of the increasingly extremist religious and nationalistic world in which Shas is grounded.

"Shas may be more dangerous ultimately than Meir Kahane's Kach Party," he warned, citing the many newly observant voters to whom Shas appeals. "They are violently nationalistic."

"The entire ultra-Orthodox camp has moved sharply to the right. Perhaps in an endeavour to compensate for their not doing army service, they choose this way of showing their loyalty to the state somehow."

Hacohen's advice to the two major parties would be to issue a joint declaration that they will not enter any future coalition with the non-Zionist parties - the Communists and the Progressive List for Peace on the left, and Aguda and Shas on the right.

But he does not believe that such a declaration will be forthcoming.

"Even if Labour did it alone, that would be something," he said wistfully. "But it probably won't."



The Italian Interior Minister, Oscar Luigi Scalfaro (left), views a bomb disposal robot at Border Police headquarters in Lod yesterday.

Soviet emigres blast new exit visa rules

By ARYEH RUBINSTEIN

Recently promulgated Soviet regulations purporting to liberalize Jewish emigration policy were denounced yesterday by the Public Council for Soviet Jewry in Tel Aviv and the Soviet Jewry Education and Information Centre in Jerusalem.

The bodies, the principal Israeli organizations advocating the cause of Soviet Jewry, agreed that the regulations will tighten the screws on most of the 400,000 Soviet Jews seeking exit visas.

The Information Centre, a more radical body than the Public Council, also faulted the Israeli government for its silence over the regulations. Former Prisoners of Zion Yosef Mendelevich and Natan Sharansky made this criticism at a press conference at Beit Agron attended by some 40 journalists, mostly foreign correspondents.

Sharansky said he has been invited to the U.S. to take part in Human Rights Day assemblies on December 10. He asserted that he will urge the U.S. to ensure the Soviets for toughening their stand on Soviet Jewish emigration.

Dr. Yuri Stern and Mendelevich, respectively spokesman and chairman of the Information Centre, said the new regulations which take effect on January 1 aim to make family reunification, narrowly defined, the sole grounds for allowing Soviet Jews to emigrate.

But even those grounds are to be subject to considerations such as "state security," "the public interest," "morality," and "demands

of the family members remaining in the USSR."

Because the authorities can interpret state security and the other terms as "broadly" and "ridiculously" as they like, even Jews who do have immediate family abroad have no assurance that they or their children will ever get out.

Mendelevich attacked the Israeli government for its "fearful" approach in the issuing of passports to Soviet Jews who request them. He read from a letter sent by the Interior Ministry to the Haifa lawyer of the Chernobylsky family in the USSR, which explained:

"The issuance of [such] passports... at this time will impair the delicate contacts between Israel and the USSR."

According to the new regulations, the Public Council statement said, family reunification will only be permitted immediate family members (parents, children, spouses, brothers and sisters). Only if the applicant has no immediate family in the Soviet Union will emigration requests be considered for reunification with more distant family members.

One of the regulations states that those applying for an exit visa will receive a "yes" or "no" answer within six months. A fresh application may not be made for another six months.

Public Council director Chaim Chester said it was clear that the publication of the new regulations was connected with the follow-up conference to the Helsinki accords, now under way in Vienna.

BASKETBALL

Maccabi launch campaign

By DON GOULD

TEL AVIV. - The winter ought to begin heating up tonight. It's a winter that will lead, it is hoped, to a spring celebration in Lausanne next April when the European Cup basketball final takes place.

Maccabi Tel Aviv have every reason to feel satisfied with the structure of the final pool. In sparkling off their 11th successive campaign, they should not disappoint, when they entertain the Yugoslav champions Zadar at Yad Eliyahu at 8:30 tonight.

According to Drazen Petrovitch, the most formidable player in Yugoslav basketball, it was only an "inexplicable lapse" on the part of his club Cibona Zagreb which allowed unfancied Zadar to clinch

their first national Yugoslav title. Although the Yugoslav clubs rarely disappoint in terms of attractive quality play, given home court advantage, there will be few excuses if Maccabi fail to get their campaign for this year's Cup off to a fine start.

Provided there is television at all, the game will be screened live and there will also be direct radio commentary from Yad Eliyahu.

An injury-plagued Zadar arrived last night without a number of key players, openly admitting they are rank outsiders and do not have much hope of winning tonight.

"If Johnson, Magee, Berkowitz and Jamchee don't play I wouldn't complain one little bit," Zadar's amiable coach Josip Gjergja said wryly. One thing he has going for him is his intimate knowledge of Israeli basketball. He has been here nine times in the past with other clubs and the national team as a player, and knows much about Maccabi's style of play.

Zadar expected starters:
2. Anton Mihaljevic, 28, 1.87m
16. Dusanovic, 23, 1.90m
11. Stajic Vranjkovic, 22, 2.15m
14. Ivica Obed, 29, 2.04m
15. Draskovic, 31, 1.96m (capt.)
Coach Josip Gjergja

CRICKET

Australia hold out to draw

PERTH, Australia (Reuter). - Allan Border expressed surprise at rival captain Mike Gatting's tactics after Australia held out to draw the second cricket Test against England at the WACA ground yesterday.

Needing to bat through the final day to save the game - the 391 runs needed for victory were never a realistic target - Australia were 197 for four when, with 10 overs left, Gatting accepted England could no longer win.

The result means England take a 1-0 lead into the third Test of the five-match series starting in Adelaide on December 12.

Border's reluctance was at Gatting's decision not to make Australia begin their second innings before the close on Tuesday, instead delaying his declaration until first thing yesterday morning.

"I was surprised he didn't declare a half an hour before stumps last night," Border said. "I suppose he thought he was one up and didn't want to say anything."

"But that 20-minute period could have seen some Australian wickets fall."

Gatting, understandably, disagreed. "I don't think we've let Australia off the hook in any way. We are still one up in the series and they had to battle to survive today."

Border said, despite some improvement on Tuesday, the principal problem facing Australia was their bowling.

He said he would be talking to chairman of selectors Laurie Lawrie later about the composition of the team for Adelaide. "Peter Shepp must be considered and we will have to think long and hard about the new-ball bowlers."

"Geoff Lawson is not playing in the Sheffield Shield against Queensland in Brisbane because of his back injury and we will have to see how he comes up out of that."

NBA

Bullets kill Celts' streak

NEW YORK (AP). - There was no parquet floor, no yellow paint on the walls, no championship banners hanging from the ceiling and few of the fans were as rabid as the ones the Celtics are used to at Boston Garden.

But the 48 consecutive home victories the Celtics compiled since last December 10 included three victories at the Hartford Civic Centre in Hartford, Connecticut, and that was where the streak came to an end Tuesday night.

"This ended our streak even though we weren't at the Garden," Celtics coach R.C. Jones said after the Washington Bullets beat

Boston 117-109.

Suns 124, Knicks 100

Phoenix spoiled the head coaching debut of Bob Hill as Larry Nance scored 25 points and rookie Rafael Addison had 12 of his 14 in the third period.

Bulls 115, Sonics 109

NBA scoring leader Michael Jordan scored 40 points, including his 30th, at the end of regulation and overtime, leading Chicago to a win in overtime. Jordan's rebound lay-up and free throw with 34 seconds remaining in regulation forced the overtime.

In other NBA action Tuesday night, it was the Hawks 116, Nuggets 108; Bucks 95, Pacers 88; Cavaliers 115, Spurs 105; Warriors 104, Rockets 99; Trail Blazers 134, Clippers 99; and Mavericks 127, Kings 124.

SOCCER Mystery resignations

By PAUL KOHN

TEL AVIV. - Moshe Sinai, of Hapoel Tel Aviv, a stalwart in the midfield in the national team for the past five years, announced last night that he wanted to leave the national team squad.

Sinai, aged 25, has won 27 international caps. He gave no reason for wanting to leave the squad, except to

deny that it had anything to do with his midfield partner, Uri Malmilian, "with whom I am friends both on and off the field."

Zahi Armeli, the Maccabi Haifa striker, had earlier made a similar request that he should not be included in future training sessions of the national team.

NFL Standings

AMERICAN CONFERENCE EAST										
	W	L	T	Pct	PP	PA		W	L	T
New England	10	3	0	.769	347	220				
N.Y. Jets	10	3	0	.769	309	265				
Miami	6	7	0	.462	335	313				
Buffalo	6	7	0	.462	249	267				
Indianapolis	0	15	0	.000	147	339				

CENTRAL										
	W	L	T	Pct	PP	PA		W	L	T
Cleveland	8	5	0	.692	288	272				
Cincinnati	8	5	0	.615	325	332				
Pittsburgh	4	9	0	.308	216	271				
Houston	3	10	0	.231	125	368				

WEST										
	W	L	T	Pct	PP	PA		W	L	T
Denver	10	3	0	.769	321	219				
L.A. Raiders	8	5	0	.615	282	259				
Kansas City	7	6	0	.538	277	290				
Seattle	7	6	0	.538	246	253				
San Diego	3	10	0	.231	267	315				

NATIONAL CONFERENCE EAST										
	W	L	T	Pct	PP	PA		W	L	T
N.Y. Giants	11	2	0	.846	365	191				
Washington	11	2	0	.846	303	221				
Dallas	7	6	0	.538	305	267				
Philadelphia	4	9	0	.308	277	260				
St. Louis	3	10	0	.231	180	297				

CENTRAL										
	W	L	T	Pct	PP	PA		W	L	T
Chicago	11	2	0	.846	364	150				
Minnesota	7	6	0	.538	323	227				
Detroit	5	8	0	.385	241	263				
Green Bay	5	7	0	.417	203	234				
Tampa Bay	2	11	0	.154	201	383				

WEST										
	W	L	T	Pct	PP	PA		W	L	T
L.A. Rams	9	4	0	.692	235	196				
San Francisco	7	5	1	.583	297	199				
New Orleans	6	7	0	.462	239	214				
Atlanta	6	6	1	.500	228	232				

SPORTOTO

By PAUL KOHN

TEL AVIV. - Seven football pool players managed the feat of marking all correct lines of 14 results on the Sportoto coupon last week, and each of them is due to collect NIS 71,000.

Thirteen results right won NIS 1,000, twelve got NIS 90, eleven earned NIS 12 and even ten results got a dividend of NIS 2.40.

Sportoto announced a turnover of NIS 2.7 million last week and a minimum total payout of NIS 1.1 million after this weekend's games.

Tips	Line	Permutation
Hap. Lod v Mac. Yavne	X	1X
Mac. Jaffa v Bet. Netanya	1	1
Bersheva v Bet. TA	1	1
Hap. E. Sarva v Shikmona	1	1
Hap. TA v Bet. J'Am	X	1X2
Mac. TA v Mac. J'Am	X	1X2
Mac. Netanya v Bet. Yehuda	X	1
Hap. PT v Mac. PT	1	1
Tiberias v Hap. Holon	1	1
Hap. Acre v Hap. Ederah	1	1X
Hap. J'Am v Bet. Sheam	1	1X
R. Ashdod v Yehud	X	1X
Hatsoth v Dimona	1	1

Masorti cheer court ruling

By HAIM SHAPIRO
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Israel's Masorti (Conservative) Movement welcomes the High Court of Justice ruling that Reform converts must be registered as Jews by the Interior Ministry even if the movement itself recognizes the validity only of some Reform conversions.

Rabbi Pinchas Spectre, director of the Masorti Movement, told *The Jerusalem Post* yesterday that there are three Conservative converts in Israel who have been waiting for the High Court verdict and will now also be registered as Jews.

As for Reform conversions, Spectre said his movement examines each on its merits.

"If it is performed according to *halacha*, then we are happy with it," he said. If *milin* (circumcision) or *tevila* (ritual immersion) are lacking, said Spectre, then they would "encourage the person to complete the conversion according to *halacha*." If a woman does not "complete" the process the Conservative Movement would not regard her children as Jews.

Spectre said that *halacha* should not be the sole criterion for acceptance in Israel. "It is not just a *halachic* question, but a peoplehood question." Asked if he implied that there was a Jewish people outside of *halacha*, Spectre said that "speaking for myself, I feel we should recognize a Jewish people and a *halachic* Jewish people."

The movement had not ruled on the question of performing marriages involving Reform converts, said Spectre, but in any case Conservative rabbis are not allowed to conduct marriages in Israel.

(Continued from Page One)

JUNGLE

and municipalities approve pensions far in excess of what is allowed by law. Fourteen retiring employees received more than \$1.6 million in unwarranted pension payments. The comptroller has called for an inquiry to determine if at least some of these funds can be retrieved.

VEHICLES. Municipalities regularly purchase vehicles without any budgetary authorization. In January, 1985 Ramat Gan presented its mayor with a car costing more than \$35,000 which included many luxury features.

It took the Interior Ministry three

months to direct the municipalities to implement a government order to halt purchases of new equipment. Only one of the 14 municipalities complied. The order totally forbade the purchase of new automobiles, but 11 municipalities bought 47 cars, including 10 for private use, at a total cost of over \$2.5 million.

GRANTS TO INSTITUTIONS. Most municipalities have no fixed criteria for such grants. The Interior Ministry transferred more than \$32,000 to the Jerusalem municipality on condition that the minis-

try's favoured institutions be included in the Jerusalem grants. The municipality allocated \$1.1m. of direct grants to institutions connected to the lists represented on the municipal council, in accordance with the size of their representation.

Special Ministry grants were distributed in 1985 through local authorities to religious institutions (\$2.3m.) and other institutions (\$400,000).

The comptroller points to similar mismanagement and improprieties in water distribution, school finances, electricity consumption, tax collection and other areas.

'Only a few rotten apples in barrel'

Jewish 'libel' comments on Boesky scandal termed not representative

By WALTER RUBY
Jerusalem Post Correspondent

NEW YORK. - A prominent American Jewish leader has denounced as "group libel" comments by several leading American rabbis last week that the Ivan Boesky insider trading scandal and the New York City municipal corruption trials involving Jewish politicians are evidence of an ethical failure within the Jewish community.

Kenneth J. Bialkin said that remarks by three leading rabbis - Walter Wuerzberger (Orthodox), Wolf Kelman (Conservative), and Alexander Schindler (Reform) - to *The Jerusalem Post* citing the Boesky scandal as evidence of corruption in Jewish morality, "represent the kind of remarks we would term anti-Semitic if they came from non-Jews." Bialkin is a prominent New York corporate attorney and the immediate past-chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

According to Bialkin: "Of course we feel badly when any Jew gets into trouble with the law. But to say that this reflects a sickness or moral failing in a whole community is a terrible exaggeration, which only plays into the hands of...our enemies. There is a certain amount of anti-Semitism in the U.S., and there are people who would use any excesses in the community as grounds to attack it."

Noting that Boesky and others so far apprehended by the Securities and Exchange Commission for illegally using inside information to make millions on the stock market were all Jewish, Bialkin said: "There are many bright and successful Jews in the financial community. Most of them are honest. If there are a few rotten apples in the barrel, that doesn't spoil the whole barrel. It certainly doesn't indicate a pervasive moral failing in the Jewish community."

"Jews account for between 2 and 3

percent of the population, but I doubt very much whether they represent 2 to 3 per cent of the prison population," he said.

Bialkin was asked about the rabbis' contention that the tendency of Jewish organizations to accord honours to the wealthy has contributed to a moral coarseness in Jewish life.

"I don't think it is fair to criticize the Jewish Theological Seminary for honouring Boesky, who contributed several million dollars to the school's library. They had no way of knowing he was a criminal."

WORLD BANK PUBLICATIONS IN DEVELOPMENT

World Development Report 1986
The '86 edition of this annual report examines trade and pricing policies in world agriculture and looks at the role of governments in agriculture to show what their pricing and trade policies mean for economic development. 320 pages. NIS 14.90

Investing in Development
Lessons of World Bank Experience
by Warren C. Baum and Stokes M. Tolbert
Investing in Development provides guidance to officials and others in developing countries in selecting, preparing, and carrying out development policies and investment projects. Nearly four decades of financing development projects around the world are contained in four sections... plus an informative summary. A wealth of case studies throughout the book illustrates the vital concepts and key issues presented. 624 pages. NIS 18.90

World Economic Outlook 1986
A Survey by the Staff of the International Monetary Fund.
A comprehensive interdepartmental review of world economic developments. Contains descriptions of development and policies, as well as projections to 1991 for individual countries. 268 pages. NIS 22.70

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☐ World Economic Outlook 1986
☐ Investing in Development
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Please allow 8 weeks for delivery; all prices include VAT.

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MAINT

Where the sun shines best

Who knows, gambling casinos may be on the horizon at the Dead Sea, The Post's Abraham Rabinovich reports.

THE SUN shines east, the sun shines west, but Moshe Shamir, chairman of the Tamar Regional Council, knows where the sun shines best — 400 metres under sea level.

That is where Shamir lives — at Kibbutz Ein Gedi on the shores of the Dead Sea. The sun that shines on him and his neighbours is not the sun that shines on the rest of us who live above sea level.

"If I go to a Tel Aviv beach, I'm burnt and peeling after a couple of hours," he said in a recent interview. "This never happens at the Dead Sea."

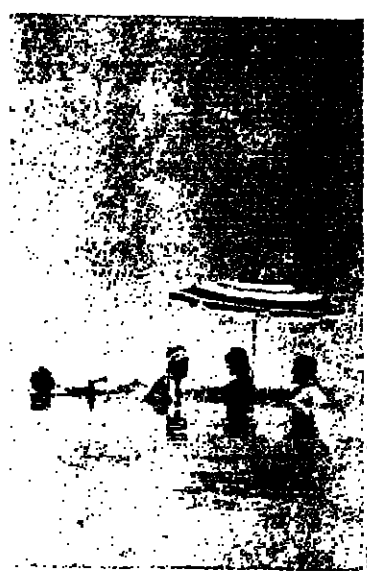
The reason is the density of the atmosphere at that sub-sea level which filters out the ultra-violet rays which cause not only burns but skin cancer, according to Tamar. "Not only that, but the sunbathers last much longer," he adds.

If the secretaries of Europe discover that the Dead Sea sun can keep them tanned long after they have returned to their snowy climes, they may yet turn Sodom into the Switzerland of the Middle East. That at least is Shamir's fond hope as he surveys the future of his region.

"The Dead Sea has the biggest potential of any region for leading the country to economic independence."

Tourism is one of the main elements in this vision. There are presently six hotels in two locations along the Dead Sea — Ein Bokek and Hamat Zohar — with two more under construction. Their 80 per cent occupancy rate is the highest in the country, thanks mainly to the popularity with Europeans of the natural treatments available to skin disease sufferers along the shores of the Dead Sea.

A proposed new tourism site between Ein Gedi and Masada would accommodate 50 hotels if the planners' projections are realized. Asked what tourists would do in the middle



of the desert after a day or two of soaking up safe sunlight, Shamir points to another desert city. "What do they do in Las Vegas?" If gambling has made that ersatz Sodom flourish, why not in the real Sodom? Entry to gambling casinos would be with foreign passports only, suggests Shamir, who notes that this is the practice in casinos in London and other parts of the world.

ONE OF the reasons hotel development in the region has not proceeded faster, according to Shamir, is the price asked by the government for barren land. A dunam of undeveloped land near the hotel areas can cost \$100,000.

"Until they lower land prices, eliminate the bureaucracy investors have to contend with and offer attractive terms for capital investment, nothing is going to move," he says.

When these steps were taken in Cyprus, he notes, the number of tourists increased within a very few years from 80,000 annually to two

million. The Greek Islands have close to seven million tourists a year. With tourists in these numbers seeking Mediterranean sun, Shamir is convinced that the Dead Sea will become a major tourist attraction once the infrastructure is built and the word gets out about those ultra-violet rays. In addition to the sun and the view there are nearby sights like Masada and, little more than an hour away, Jerusalem.

The Dead Sea itself is a mineral treasure-house being artfully mined by the Dead Sea Works, the largest dollar earner in Israeli industry. Some 1.8 million tons of potash is extracted annually and this figure will rise. Shamir maintains that magnesium, which exists in large concentrations in the Dead Sea, will provide a great new source of income in the future when techniques are devised to mine it economically. A number of mineral-based industries provide employment in the Dead Sea area to thousands of workers.

Half a dozen settlements with close to 2,000 residents exist along the Israeli side of the Dead Sea. Although Ein Gedi draws 80 per cent of its income from tourism, mostly local, the other settlements are more heavily based on agriculture, utilizing the ample sunshine for early production of vegetables. Ten new settlements are planned for the region, including three on the eastern slopes of the Hebron Hills facing the Dead Sea and three in the Sodom Valley.

The Dead Sea region is probably the best example in the country of ingenuity and will-power being used to transform a seemingly wasted landscape bereft of life, or any hope of life into a thriving enterprise in which the handicaps — heat, a sun that beats down unblinkingly 360 days a year and a salt-laden sea — become high-priced chips to be raked in by the house.

RAFI HOCHMAN'S office is filled with trophies and photographs charting significant chapters in the history of Eilat — very appropriate for the workplace of the city's mayor.

But we are more interested in hearing a bit about the future — specifically, of the tourist industry in Israel's thriving southernmost city, which boasts more than 20 three-to-five-star hotels and a host of lower-rated facilities.

City hall, Hochman tells us, is inundated with requests for permits to build even more hotels including applications from both national and multi-national luxury chains.

The impression that the city is comprised of hotel guests and has not much in the way of residents is true to some extent, Hochman admits. And the hotels are suffering from a serious shortage in staff these days. Major efforts have been made to attract young people just out of the army, he explains, but the lure of year-round sunshine and decent wages and working conditions is apparently not enough to draw them. Few of those who do come stay longer than a few months.

Hochman believes that more

FEW MEN are more optimistic than Michel Jauslin about the future of Jerusalem's tourist industry. But then, as general manager of the new 522-room Hyatt Regency, scheduled to open here in April 1987, he can't afford not to be.

"I'm totally confident," he says, looking out from his office on Mount Scopus, over the hotel's breathtaking view of the city. "We don't have enough excuses not to do well in a city that sells itself as well as this."

Eight years in the planning stage and five in actual construction, the Regency represents a major effort by the multi-national Hyatt corporation to establish itself on Israeli soil.

One of his previous forays here was a brief attempt to take over the management of the ill-fated Astoria (now Dan Panorama) in Tel Aviv.

The new hotel represents a far more serious investment of time and money. It is a showcase that is planned to be one of the more glittering links in the company's chain.

Like other Hyatts, its determinedly modernist architecture skirts the

Mayor's eye view

Greer Fay Cashman

workers will come once the new School of Tourism gets underway. Sponsored by Isrotel head David Lewis and the Ministries of Tourism and Labour, the school will operate out of a local hotel, offering its students both theoretical and hands-on training.

NONE THELESS, Eilat continues to outrank the rest of the country as a tourist destination, both in summer and winter. But what will ultimately put the town on the map is the \$30 million international sports and training complex containing facilities for track, field and court sports including football, basketball, basketball, tennis and even horse-racing.

Several leading international soccer clubs have already brought teams to Eilat for winter training. Though it is difficult to imagine anyone running around on a soccer field in Eilat, Hochman produces enthusias-

tic letters written by Liverpool and Manchester United captains Graham Sones and Ron Atkins after they had tested the ground.

The sports complex will also double as exhibition grounds for national and international fairs. A convention site requires a large and sophisticated conference hall which Eilat still lacks. Hochman is working on plans for one which will be jointly funded by all the five-star hotels, and located in the heart of the North Beach with underground access from the major hotels.

Before the year is out, Eilat will embark on an ambitious five-year, \$7 million environmental improvement project. The plan is to introduce better lighting to the streets, and to construct pocket parks, playgrounds and attractive arcades, and generally more greenery. A \$3 million central park will be developed concurrently.

Hochman reveals yet another plan for a high-class urban neighbour-

hood. In the first stage it will have 500 luxury residences with provision for 500 more. He already has a list of would-be residents from Los Angeles and says that an additional list of South Africans is in the pipeline.

The mayor is confident that many of the new residents will invest in local businesses, spurred by the financial concessions of a Free Trade Zone area. He can already envision Eilat as an important centre for science-based industry.

Despite his grandiose plans, Hochman doesn't want Eilat to grow too fast or too much, though he is cheered by the large number of newcomers to the town. "We used to have a lot of emigrants. Now we have a lot of immigrants," he says.

Regardless of the other directions in which Eilat may develop, it will always remain a vacation spot. Tourists currently complain that there are few places to shop and not enough night life. The mayor hopes that within the next few years this too will change. Another change which must come sooner or later is in the resistance by Israel's legislature to a casino.

Multi-national effort

Caleb Ben-David

The drop in American tourism last season, due to the terrorist scare also does not overly concern him. He cites recent figures that show that the hotel room occupancy rate remained at an acceptable level.

He feels that the government is doing a good enough job in supporting the tourist industry here, except in the area of pushing for an increase in the passenger air traffic into the country.

"Today during the high seasons there are rooms open but people can't get a place on the planes coming here. We need more flights."

Though the Hyatt is located farther from the centre of the city than most of the other major hotels, Jauslin says that the location is not a disadvantage. It affords both the spectacular view and the space needed for two tennis courts and large pool. He also sees the Regency's Mount Scopus neighbours —

near-by Hadassah University Hospital and Hebrew University — as potential resources.

"Hadassah has already contacted us about working out special arrangements for guests who are here to visit or use the hospital, and we are expecting to hire many of the students from the university."

Jauslin expects the new Hyatt to be a "trendsetter" on the Jerusalem tourist scene. "Other hotels here mostly rely on tradition," he says. "The mark of our chain is innovation."

New twists include the "Regency Club" section of rooms, suites and boardrooms, that will offer extra amenities to high-powered executives and pampered travellers.

The next year will tell whether the Regency can fulfil its promise of new excitement for the local tourist industry. The hotel's promotional video features the usual views of Jerusalem's historic attractions, but Jauslin points out, they are set to a snappy disco beat in place of the usual schmaltzy mid-East muzak.

Southern constellations

Greer Fay Cashman and Jeffrey Wigoder survey some of Eilat's hotels.

ie; a fish restaurant; a dairy restaurant; a yacht pub serving light meals; a poolside grill and a Spanish buffet.

At night, there is live cabaret-style entertainment. In the daytime when it's warm out, there are numerous poolside activities plus programmes for children. The hotel has two outdoor swimming pools, a paddle pool for children and two floodlit tennis courts.

NOW THAT the winter season has started, the majority of guests are Europeans on charter packages. One of the peculiarities of this clientele, says general-manager Daniel Roger, is that even when they go on vacation, they insist on keeping up with their favourite television programmes. Consequently, the King Solomon acquired a \$5,000 satellite dish — a good investment, he says.

The King Solomon's next-door neighbour the Lagoon (also part of the Isrotel fleet) was closed during the summer for refurbishing. Just the new flooring and carpets cost \$300,000, says GM Micky Shogol, noting that other renovations included decorative ceilings in the public areas, restyling of the lobby and entertainment lounge, a new piano bar and dining room. The

face-lift was completed in time for the winter season.

On the other hand, it was a good time to promote the newly-opened Sport Hotel, a few minutes away. It isn't always sound business for a management organization to divert guests from a four-star to a three-star facility, but since Isrotel wanted to introduce guests to its (then) newest project, it made business sense to urge people who couldn't stay at the Lagoon to try the Sport. (See article following.)

Just across the road from the Sport Hotel is what promises to be Isrotel's brightest star: the St. Tropez, formerly the Club Med. Totally refurbished, it will operate as a three-star hotel until construction of a new, larger wing on adjacent land is completed. The original structure will subsequently be integrated into the new five-star complex.

When all these plans come to fruition, Lewis wants to revamp the Eyal Hotel into a self-catering facility. The Eyal currently serves as residential quarters for Isrotel's out-of-town staff.

A little closer to town is the Neptune Hotel, an important four-star link in the IRH chain and, for several years prior to the opening of the Sonesta Hotel at Taba and the King Solomon on the North Beach, considered to be Eilat's most luxurious hotel.

Currently, its major claim to fame is that it houses Eilat's local radio station — the first and so far the only local station in the country.

Competition has, in a sense, forced the Neptune to develop its own special character. MG Eli Levy candidly admits that the Neptune does not offer as many activities as some of its neighbours, because it attracts a different kind of clientele, especially now in the winter — in particular, middle-aged visitors from abroad who want peace and quiet, sunshine and good service.

When they come to Eilat, Europeans, says Levy, want to forget about business and telephones. They like the soft background music of a piano bar, and bask at anything loud and electronic.

Heavily booked till the end of May, the Neptune is now hosting some of the Israelis who stayed there in summer. Levy — and other Eilat hotel managers — are still amazed by the sabra onslaught throughout the whole of this year.

It is a phenomenon no one would have predicted even three years ago, says Levy.

"We're starting to build up an Israeli winter market. Until two years ago, we had hardly any staying with us. It's a pleasant surprise. Israelis are changing their standards and their vacation habits," says Levy.

"First, they went to Histadrut-run guest houses; then they went to small, family-style hotels; then they discovered four- and five-star hotels. Now it has become the in thing to stay at a hotel in Israel."

Some years ago, IRH acquired the three-star Galei Eilat as an annex to the Neptune. While the latter is on the brink of five-star criteria, the Galei Eilat does not exude an aura beyond its station and will probably suffer in the competition with the Sport Hotel.

If Isrotel, through the energy and drive of David Lewis, has done a lot to change the face of Eilat and make it more attractive to North Beach tourists, the achievement of another Englishman on the South Beach cannot be overlooked.

Cyril Stein, chairman and managing director of the Ladbroke Group, is the moving force behind the Club In holiday village, created at a cost of \$15 million. Since its opening in September, 1984, the village, with its 168 two-bedroom villas, has attracted a rapidly growing clientele.

The self-catering concept here has been panned out by couples with young families. The villas are not rented out on a head count. Thus it can cost less to accommodate a family of six at Club In, than it costs for a single room in a hotel. The villa's additional features are its lounge, kitchenette and bathroom. Guests have the choice of cooking for themselves or dining at one of the Club In eateries.

The village has everything a holiday-maker could want, and there are guests who don't venture beyond the village for the whole of their stay. There are also special facilities for kids to keep them out of their parents' hair. This too makes a vital difference to holiday enjoyment, enabling families to be separate yet together — or perhaps it's the other way around. G.F.C.

THE OPENING of a new hotel normally evokes an image of "a place for everything, and everything in its place."

At the Isrotel chain Sport Hotel in Eilat there certainly is a place for everything — 220 guest rooms, food, sports, dancing — but everything is not yet in its place.

The official grand opening must wait until 1987 but, in the words of general manager Stephen Ayers, "The Sport Hotel is now in the midst of a 'soft opening,' a period in which we are getting things into place nicely and comfortably."

The Sport Hotel, says Ayers, "is first and foremost a resort hotel, but with an emphasis on sport. It is also part of Isrotel's grand design for Eilat, since we will cater to the guests at the King Solomon and Lagoon hotels by completing the services we want everyone to enjoy." By this, Ayers means sports.

The hotel already has a "half size" olympic swimming pool in operation and soon to come on line are two waterfalls, a smaller heated pool, two squash courts (the first in Eilat), two jacuzzis, a sauna, and a fully-equipped health club.

On part of some 20 dunams set aside for sports, five tennis courts, two multi-purpose courts (for basketball, handball and mini-football), two racketball courts and a tennis training wall are available.

On the drawing board for the remainder of the 20 dunams and scheduled for completion within a year are a horseback riding school, mini-golf, a children's playground, croquet, archery, basketball, netball, horseshoes, table-tennis and an obstacle course.

For those who make a sport of eating, the hotel has something for everyone. The facilities are kosher, and the dining room offers Isrotel's trademark buffets for both breakfast and dinner. There is also an à la carte grill room for the steak eaters, a health corner and a poolside grill.

The Sport Hotel can expect to acquire a four-star rating from the Ministry of Tourism but, says Ayers, "we have graded ourselves as a three-star Isrotel hotel. Look around and tell me if this is only a three-star hotel." J.W.

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THERE ARE almost as many synonyms for the word "camel" in Arabic as the Eskimos have for the word "snow." For nomadic desert tribes like the Beduin, the camel has a significance far beyond its zoological attributes.

Camel caravans have dotted the arid landscape of the Middle East for centuries. In fact, some say that the camel was the first beast of burden to be tamed for human use. Carrying goods to and fro across the continents of Asia and Africa, the camel was famed for its stamina and strength.

For a small taste of that historic tradition, visitors to the Dead Sea hotel area (there are now six hotels along the palm-lined beachfront) can take a day trip to the Camel Farm near the ancient ruins of Mamshit, once an important link in the trade route.

The farm, run by Ariel Ullmann and Galit Stein, who previously ran a snake farm in the Arava (Ullmann has been bitten so often that he is immune to snake venom; he also bears scars on his fingers from too-close encounters), is situated just five kilometres south of Dimona.

"When I had to give up the serpentarium, I wanted to set up something that would incorporate my love of the desert and animals with my friendship with local Beduins," said Ullmann. He and Stein, his companion and partner for the past five years, now have 10 camels and a donkey instead - along with a 20-dunam spread into which they are introducing plant species from other arid zones with the help of James

Aranson of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev's Applied Research Institute.

They are open for visitors. For NIS 89, those interested in a unique off-beat experience get transfers to and from the Dead Sea hotel area as well as an experienced tour guide licensed by the Ministry of Tourism.

"Visitors are welcomed in this tent, made of goat wool, and then given the traditional Beduin welcome with sweet tea and bitter coffee," said Ullmann. A short explanation about the desert follows, then a camel trek to Mamshit, once an important Nabatean and, later, Byzantine town.

The Nabateans settled here permanently in the middle period, in the two centuries just before and after the beginning of the Christian Era. This town is the most eastern in the Negev and acted as a service station for caravans going to and coming from Petra. In fact, this was the central junction to Hebron, Avdat, Halutza, Jerusalem and Petra," said Ullmann. He added that at a later stage, the Nabateans in Mamshit turned to agriculture and horse-breeding, possibly Arab racehorses.

"Stables have been unearthed so it seems to have been an important economic staple." As their people did elsewhere in the desert, the Nabateans of Mamshit used floodwaters and run-off waters to irrigate their fields, in which they grew grapes, wheat and barley, the year round. "This is a rich area, because of the combination of sandy plain and canyons," said Ullmann.

A novel way to navigate the Negev

Liora Moriel hears about a bumpy - but fun - way to see the desert.



THERE ARE also two Byzantine churches, which Ullmann and Stein term "sumptuous" and which are well-preserved because of the paucity of precipitation in the region. "This place has been inhabited since the Bronze Age," they said. The 10 camels, all of them female, have names like Golda and Venus.

The humane treatment they receive, along with good food and veterinary care, are part of a larger plan to turn the farm into a research centre for camels and their biproducts. Camel milk is said to be very rich in nutrients and ideal for cosmetic use. Camels have only one calf a year at most - and never twins - so it is not

so difficult to understand why, although they are so important and their domestication so ancient, there are only 15 million of them in the world today. "We want to study how to help solve the problem of hunger in developing countries, where the camel is the only animal with any chance of

flourishing, either in pens or in open grazing."

Ullmann added that the Mamshit camel farm is "one of the very few where camels are raised in a controlled situation. Although camels have been domesticated for thousands of years, there is still very little known about them." There are two archetypes of camels in the area: the tall one with long legs and neck (good for riding) and the short wide one which is best for milking and milk.

"There are world records of 40 litres of milk a day from one female camel, but the Israeli average is 15, including the amount drunk by the calf."

"Camels are very interesting and there's lots to discover about them still. They are very well adapted to the desert; carrying a person is nothing for them, the camel doesn't tire easily." For the newcomers to the rough desert, Ullmann and Stein have designed a special saddle which is much better padded than the one normally used for taking trekkers on a desert tour. There are even stumps!

A camel eats 5 kilos of dry fodder such as straw, a day; here, they also get barley. The idea is to breed a better camel, eventually. For the moment, the farm runs camel treks.

After the trek, which can be as long or as short as the visitors desire (there is a special Israeli overnight trek with outdoor accommodation in sleeping bags, including guide and food, for NIS 75), the enthusiastic entrepreneurs feed their guests with traditional Beduin fare.

Such a meal is incomplete without

labane - the goat milk cheese, usually dipped in olive oil and spiced with zatar lentils, and two types of bread. One is the *shrak*, a very thin pita bread that is cooked over a special piece of thin metal, called *sadl*, and is reminiscent of the Druse pita bread. The other is the thick-dough *li'beh*, which is baked over coals (or, for additional flavour, over a mixture of coals and camel dung). "Camel dung is probably the world's earliest fuel," said Ullmann with a smile.

ULLMANN AND Stein look on their farm, a totally private enterprise into which they and their families have sunk all their savings. "Zionism 1986." They are now looking for a partner who will help ease the inevitable cash flow problems that plague every new scheme.

Blending into the scenery, not far from the tent, is an adobe-like house which serves as the owners' living quarters and has a separate entrance for visitors' washroom facilities. Electricity is provided by a generator and a beeper takes the place of a telephone. When a message comes through, they get into the jeep and roar off to Dimona to look for a working public call box.

Those who would like to sample these camel treks in the desert can call the farm through the beeper service: (02)224341; (03)7549111; (04)380541 or (057)79765 - the uniform code number is 6420 for any message. There is also an address for those who would like to write ahead: Camel Farm UO, Box 71, Dimona 86100.

DURING this Ben-Gurion centennial year, B-G biographers, eulogists and people who worked with him recall his great vision of making the desert green. The Old Man charged the Jewish National Fund with that particular responsibility, and time has shown that his confidence was not misplaced.

Only a few years after B-G's death, Milwaukee lawyer, benefactor and land developer Avrum Chudnow decided that his dream was to make the desert blue - and also charged the Jewish National Fund with that task.

Just as Ben-Gurion rejoiced to see green spreading over Negev soil, so Avrum Chudnow and his family have delighted in seeing blue. Earlier this year, their eyes sparkling with pride, they cut the blue-and-

Making the desert blue

Greer Fay Cashman

white ribbons stretched across the jetty jutting over the artificial lake in Timna Valley Park and applauded the young swimmers from surrounding kibbutzim.

The lake, near Eilat, is part of a multi-million dollar development project in which the JNF of America will create yet another miracle in the desert. During the past three years, the JNF has created hiking trails and 11 kilometres of roadway in Timna Park.

Future plans include the completion of a complex for visitors, camping and recreation areas, picnic sites, rest areas and changing rooms.

Also on the agenda is the reconstruction of the ancient copper mines there. The idea is to permit the tourists to mine their own copper souvenirs during their visit to Timna.

When the Timna Valley Park project was adopted by the JNF of America in 1983, Chudnow pledged a million dollars for the creation of a man-made lake, the largest individual contribution in the history of the 85-year-old organization. Some \$350,000 of that pledge has already

been paid.

Chudnow has travelled all over America to raise funds, and believes that he has two prospective donors who will give large gifts of several million dollars. He himself has been a frequent visitor to Timna since the project was first mooted and plans to be on hand for the opening of the visitors' centre, which he hopes will coincide with JNF/America's national assembly that will take place here next February.

The JNF of America has blue-printed several other projects for Timna Valley Park with dedication ceremonies slated for each. Only a 15-minute drive from Eilat, the Park, when fully developed, is destined to become a magnet to locals and tourists alike - yet another good reason for visitors to go south.

"LEFT for Dead Sea trip. Very curious the drop in terrain from Jerusalem to Dead Sea - some 2,600 ft. in a distance of 26 miles. Waters of Dead Sea resemble in colour Gulf of Mexico. Slept on stones outdoors in order to get an early start at 4 a.m., which we did. Twenty-nine in our party."

This May 18, 1923 diary entry by William Topkis was his initial record of a four-day trip to the Dead Sea, one of the highlights of his half-year stay in Palestine. Certainly not a wilderness man from his American upbringing, he did not hesitate to sleep on stones, just as the Patriarch Jacob did in biblical times.

William Topkis, an American Zionist leader during this period and an ally of Louis Lipsky, was a native of Wilmington, Delaware. A community activist, businessman and investor, his financial acumen had captured the interests of the DuPont family which invited him to become a board member in one of their banks. Later, he was a partner with them in the early Samuel Goldwyn productions. Topkis even persuaded Goldwyn to film a biblical epic in Palestine, but the venture did not come to fruition.

The family enterprise, in which he was a partner with his four brothers and one sister, was the Topkis Athletic Underwear Company. The "union suits" created by this firm during and after World War I moved it into the underwear big leagues behind the two giants, BVD and Fruit of the Loom. The ads for this undergarment, costing just "one dollar," were prominently displayed in American newspapers and magazines in the 20s.

Topkis and his older brother Louis

A sleep on Dead Sea stones

David Geffen

took an active interest in the Zionist movement prior to the Balfour Declaration. Under Lipsky's patronage, they quickly became national leaders. Louis Topkis became the national treasurer of the ZOA and was one of that organization's representatives at the dedication of the Hebrew University in 1925. William Topkis only sought membership on committees but made his real mark in 1923 when he spent a half year in Palestine with his wife and daughter. His American Information Bureau matched up tourists with Jewish guides. Furthermore the film *Palestine Awakening* which he wrote and directed became a leading "propaganda" tool for the Jewish National Fund.

NEAR THE end of his stay, he joined a semi-scientific expedition to the Dead Sea. Louis Cantor, then a sanitation engineer in Jerusalem and a participant in the trip, wrote Topkis that going to the Dead Sea was an enjoyable trip and experience at one of nature's most stupendous wonders. "Cantor, Dr. Ticho, Professor Bodenheimer and others accompanied Topkis in this adventure."

The second day out, May 19, began quite early. After pushing off in a boat at 4 a.m., they made their way along the Dead Sea. "Stopped at 8 for bath in spring. Stood under small waterfall and had shower bath. Later

found a hot sulphur spring that was sure fine. Stayed in half hour or more." Topkis, like all knowledgeable tourists to the Dead Sea, took advantage of the wonderful natural resources in the area.

"Fine formations on shore," he continued. "Some places, red rocks 100 feet high. Very beautiful and worth seeing." The end of that second day had been reached. It was hot, but he concluded that day's entry with the word "bearable."

Rising at 4 a.m. again the next day, the party had slept on "a little island of sand." Possibly they had camped on the formation known as *halashon* (the tongue). "Sea rough, many seasick," Topkis noted. Sailing south they arrived at "Lot's pillar of salt" containing "probably millions of tons of salt rock here." An adventurous spirit, Topkis climbed into a nearby cave. "Very fine formation, high dome with rooms opening at top. Spent several hours here, so cool, then went to place to bathe, back to island for night."

FOR THE last day out, Topkis was again up at 4 a.m. Then he recorded his first reaction to the water. "A salty oily substance, when one bathes in it, it is sticky and the itching effect [follows] soon after." Since it was difficult to land the boat near the shore at this point, Topkis got into the water and started to walk to land. "My shoes became small," he recorded, "and my feet sore." The condition of his feet did not deter him, however. "Walked to the place

where the Maccabees made their last stand, then some 900 killed themselves there." Topkis was at Masada but due to faulty information he had been given, he mistakenly called those who had taken their lives the Maccabees. He was so impressed by the site that he wrote to his family in Delaware: "One has to see with his own eyes these sights in order to appreciate the heroic actions of our ancestors in fighting to defend our people."

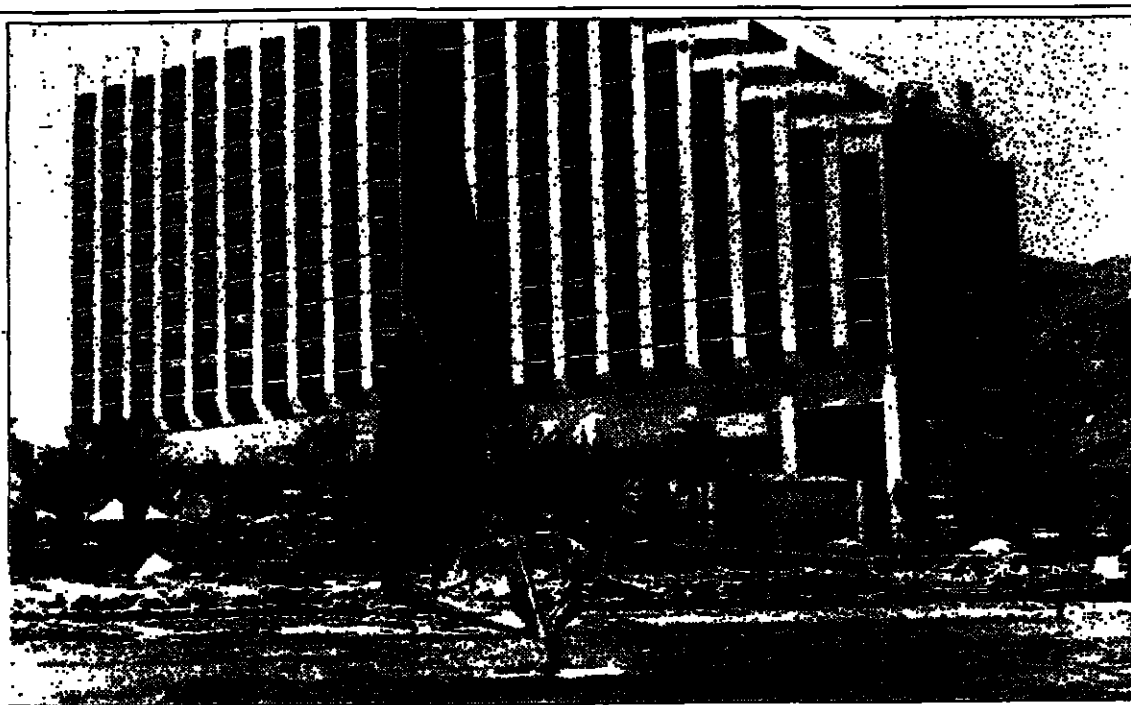
AT EIN GEDI, he "lay in swift pool of water under bulrushes for one hour, how refreshing." At this juncture, unfortunately, Topkis sustained an injury since he grabbed a hot pipe and burned himself badly. The accompanying nurses immediately "affixed first aid." By 10 that evening he was back in Jerusalem, but he had been one of the lucky ones since his final sentence indicated "some of the party [was] held up and robbed by Beduins."

For the return to Jerusalem, the group had split into two, and the newspaper described the incident in this fashion. "At kilometre 31, five kilometres from Jericho, 10 Beduin armed with German rifles halted the party and took from them their money, their valuables, their gear and equipment." A trip to the Dead Sea could end unceremoniously in those days with brigands waiting to stop the unsuspecting tourists.

Then as now, descending to the Dead Sea provides an experience unlike any other on this earth. When one is at the lowest point on this planet, anything can happen. A boating expedition in the Twenties reminds us how much, and yet how little, the thrill of a Dead Sea adventure has changed.

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A solution to traffic jams

ON A DAY when everything's going right, it takes about 50 minutes to drive from Jerusalem to Tel Aviv. But there's no guarantee of that.

The trouble usually starts five minutes after you pass Lod. Theoretically, you should be now five or 10 minutes away from your destination. The Shalom Tower is reassuringly in sight - but stretched ahead are long lanes of vehicles which scarcely seem to move. Getting through that bottleneck at the entrance to Tel Aviv can take up to an hour.

It's the kind of frustration we can all live without. For anyone caught on that highway, it's a nuisance; for the business executive, time is money and he may be losing a fortune.

Nesher Aviation, based at Jerusalem's Atarot Airport, offers a convenient solution: the air taxi. Introduced over 18 months ago, the air taxi may cost six or seven times as much as a sherut or bus, but the cost is entirely justified by the time saved. Passengers get into Tel Aviv within a mere 15 minutes of take-off.

That's just one of Nesher's many services. Government ministries and various other organizations which entertain foreign dignitaries for the briefest of stays, use Nesher to give their visitors a spectacular aerial view of Jerusalem.

Plane passengers may miss out on the aromas of the city, but they get to see a lot in a short time. Those with an hour or so to spare can fly beyond the Jerusalem skies to Masada, and pilots will obligingly vary their route

on the way back to let passengers see just a little more of the country.

Nesher has been very successful with its bar-mitzva package flights, in which youths newly inducted into manhood get individual flying lessons from the pilot over Jerusalem, instructions on how to look at things from the air, plus they visit the control tower to hear an explanation of its operation; tour the airport fire-station, and enjoy a complete run-through in a flight simulator.

As gifts go, it sure beats fountain pens and wrist-watches. The young flyers take home a diploma testifying to their experience. The bar-mitzva package costs less than NIS 80, and if the whole family wants to join in the fun, a discount is negotiable.

Though most of its flights are inland, Nesher also offers tailor-made charters abroad, and frequently rushes foreign correspondents to some newsworthy event suddenly erupted in another country.

In addition to its regular air service, Nesher also operates the only flying school in Jerusalem.

Prospective pilots are trained on Beechcraft Skippers. On-site classrooms have the most up-to-date audio-visual equipment and training aids providing the theory to complement the practical skills. Nesher's ATC 810 flight simulator is the only one of its kind in Israel, offering advanced students and rated pilots on-the-ground training for twin-engine and instrument ratings.

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By SIMON LOUISSON
For The Montreal Post

عنك من الأصل

MARKET PLACE

PINHAS LANDAU

Readying for battle

What were Minister of Finance Moshe Nissim, Deputy Minister Adi Amichai, Bank of Israel Governor Michael Bruno, Treasury Director General Emanuel Sharon and the head of the Treasury budget division Aaron Fogel doing at Prime Minister Shimon Peres's house on Tuesday evening? Was their two-and-a-half hour meeting on economic policy a top-secret confab prior to dramatic announcements of new measures to tackle the surging demand for imported washing machines? Or even a devaluation of the shekel?

Unfortunately for incorrigible sensation-seekers, the meeting was not secret, did not propose an imminent devaluation and paid little attention to the exact number of consumer durables imported last month. It was concerned instead with a more serious and wide-ranging topic — the change of the government budget for 1987/88, and the extent to which that key upcoming economic development can be made the base for fundamental reforms in taxation and many other areas.

Looked at more closely, the meeting can be seen as a kind of mutual support group, in which the Treasury and Bank of Israel people encouraged each other and exhorted the premier to help them in the run-up to the coming battles with the spending ministries, above all with Yitzhak Rabin's Defence Ministry. According to one well-placed source, the Treasury/Bank of Israel "road-show" will soon hold another, similar, session with Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, as part of the same build-up process.

What the participants all have in common — although they have plenty of disagreements over specific tactics and details — is a common strategy based on cutting the budget. That would free resources to be redirected to the private sector through lower corporate or personal taxes, and through greater access for companies to the pool of savings, instead of the government hogging the lot. These are referred to for short as tax reform and capital market reform, and if they were to be implemented, they could be expected to spark the most far-reaching changes seen in the Israeli economy since the Yom Kippur War, if not ever.

But the path to a stronger economy is strewn with difficulties, the most significant of which is the practical problem of getting the heads of the main spending ministries — Defence, Health, Housing, Education, Welfare and so on — to agree to eliminate programmes and departments. The planners have eschewed completely the "across-the-board" approach to budget-cutting, and are aiming for carefully-targeted cuts in specific items. These, they believe, are less difficult to achieve, and more effective if they are made.

But whether the Defence Ministry, for example, will be happy with the new strategy of precision-guided cuts instead of carpet-bombing remains very dubious. Its opening position has been that the cuts made in recent years were such that an increase is required next year, and further reductions are unthinkable. To the Treasury argument that the future of the economy is at stake — and with it the fate of the country's society — the defence establishment argues forcefully that skimping on defence will be even more fatal for Israel's future.

In the writer of claims and counter-claims with figures and percentages scattered by both sides, it is very difficult for outsiders to gauge where the true lines lie.

The same outline is valid for areas such as education, health and the rest, and these are the dilemmas that face the cabinet in the coming weeks. If the budget is not cut, the economy will remain stagnant or, it is feared, slip rapidly backwards. If it is, the question is where and by how much. The Treasury is not admitting to having any exact target, but anything less than several hundred million dollars would not be meaningful in a budget of over \$20 billion.

The target date for presenting the next budget to the Knesset is January 28, by which time the cabinet arguments must be wrapped up and the details ironed out. That makes the next six weeks the crucial period for making decisions.

Not on the agenda, however, were devaluations and other "evil decrees." Regarding the former, all the participants — apparently including Fogel, who has in the past been labelled as favouring a currency adjustment — are agreed that there is no need for one at the present time and that the result, given the all-embracing linkages of the Israeli economy, would be totally counter-productive.

Similarly, the import boom is not a source of concern, at least at this stage, and the current group of senior officials does not regard consumption per se as a negative phenomenon — unlike some of their predecessors — and despite the demands from some commentators for a renewed bout of austerity. The underlying philosophy of the heads of both major political blocs, and of their advisers and officials, is gradually moving toward a more "supply-side" oriented approach to solving economic problems.

The pursuit of this aim may ultimately be far more sensational than the traditional high-taxation/high government spending approach — but the late-night meetings at which it is planned are unlikely to produce instant drama.

Treasury passes on responsibility

Car project goes to Knesset

By JONATHAN KARP

A proposal to build a car assembly plant in Kiryat Gat was handed over by the Treasury to the Knesset Finance Committee yesterday in a move the investors said is likely to result in the project's winning government approval after months of delays.

"We are 90 per cent certain the plant will be built," said Natan Galis, a member of the Paris-based group of Jewish investors behind the project. He said he had been pessimistic a week ago when he arrived in Israel expecting to close the deal only to find it had run up against opposition in the Finance Ministry.

Yesterday's action was taken after MK David Magen (Likud) raised a motion for the agenda to force the Treasury to stop stalling on the decision. Magen, who was mayor of Kiryat Gat when the idea of the plant was hatched 10 months ago, claimed the plant's approval was being held up because of what he termed "Zionism 1986-style," that is, fixating on the immediate monetary reward to the government rather than encouraging long-term industrial development.

The investors who control a Paris-based company called Stone Car, are proposing to invest \$7 million to build an assembly plant for the Magnum, a four-wheel drive vehicle that has been produced in Italy since 1984. In Europe, the Magnum competes against the Land Rover as a second car for families. Galis said it was considered the "most luxurious car of the 4X4 line."

But in Israel, he emphasized, the Magnum would be altered to serve primarily as a commercial vehicle. He said the \$20,000 vehicle could be adapted as a jeep for the army or for general field work, as well as a pick-up truck.

The question of how to classify the Magnum, and thus how to tax it, formed the crux of opposition within the Finance Ministry. Stone Car insisted that the vehicle was a jeep, thus qualifying for a lower purchase tax, than a private car would, of only 8 per cent.

But officials in the Finance Ministry's customs department, while acknowledging that the investors were not asking for direct government aid, said the lower tax would indirectly cost the government NIS 20m. per year through losses in customs and tax revenue.

"This is a bad case," a senior customs official said. "We have studied the plan and have decided it is not economically sound."

An official who worked on the study said the proposal called for preferential treatment of the plant without any advantage for the national economy from the point of saving foreign currency. He added that according to customs' figures, a comparable vehicle could be imported for less than the cost of bringing in the parts and assembling the Magnum here.

Galis criticized this approach for being bureaucratic and short-sighted. "The only thing tax people understand is how much the government will get," he said, admitting that in the first year most of the vehicle's parts would come from Italy. But he said that by the third or fourth year the company hoped to have Israeli firms supply 70 per cent of the parts.

This activity along with the 100 jobs the plant would immediately provide would, according to Galis, represented a more significant economic gain for Israel. Galis also stressed that there would be a source of foreign currency by exporting the Magnum.

Though the Transport, Labour and Industry and Trade Ministries have endorsed Stone Car's proposal, there was reportedly a feeling in the Treasury that an Israeli automobile industry could not be viable. The failure of earlier ventures, such as the Autocars plant, which was renamed Rom Carmel, and of Kaiser-Ilin, which became TI and then Matmar, and Ford's recent pull-out all reinforced the government's apprehension.

Outside the government, Galis said that the two vehicle manufacturers in Israel — Elkon Bros. Ltd. and Ta'asir Rechav in Upper Nazareth — had opposed the Kiryat Gat proposal, and had asked the government about the possibility of building the Magnum themselves. Elkon Bros. refused to comment on the matter and Ta'ar did not return a phone call, seeking a response.

Galis maintained the time is ripe for Israel to move into the car business, and said with the right approach Stone Car could succeed. He said earlier attempts had failed either because they produced old models which did not appeal to the domestic market, they targeted a market that was either too hard to break into or too restricted, and they did not acquire the exclusive rights to export their product.

Stone Car proposes building a "cheap and simple" factory to produce only 1,400 cars in the first year, because they plan to enter a specialized market. Galis said that at least 600 of these Magnums would be exported.

"Export is very important," Galis said. "The product needs to have a name outside of Israel." Only then, he said, would larger companies take notice and offer their expertise to develop the vital local industries.

Row over EC's giving areas preferred trade status

By YOSSI LEMPCOWICZ
BRUSSELS. — A row has broken out between Israel and the European Community over the terms of the preferential trade treatment the EC has granted to exports from the West Bank and Gaza Strip, starting in January.

EC sources said Israel had no objection in principle to the plan, which would put exports, mainly citrus, from the territories on an equal footing with those of Israel and Jordan. But Jerusalem has said it wants to know more about how the measures will be applied.

The European Commission is opposed to Israeli government agricultural marketing bodies becoming involved in West Bank and Gaza Strip exports, according to EC sources. They say this could be interpreted as tacit consent of Israeli rule in the territories.

The issue will probably be discussed on Monday at a meeting of the Israel-EC cooperation committee. The council will be preparing for the next meeting, scheduled for January, which is a ministerial-level panel.

Meanwhile, a revised bilateral preferential trade agreement, which was due to be finalised last week, has been held up because of technical factors surrounding last-minute Israeli demands.

"These demands are only technical problems concerning quotas of concentrated orange juice," an Israeli Embassy official in Brussels told *The Jerusalem Post*. A spokeswoman for the EC Executive Commission denied there was any connection between the delay and the dispute over West Bank and Gaza exports.

Task Force forms U.S. food-marketing concern

BY MICHAEL YUDELMAN

Jerusalem Post Reporter
TEL AVIV. — The Operation Independence Task Force decided Tuesday in New York to establish a network with the help of leading American companies to market Israeli food products in North America. Elnad Gera, the Task Force's new director-general said at a press conference yesterday.

The as-yet-unnamed marketing company formed by the Task Force to run the project will be headed by Murray Lender, who founded the Bagel King company. Lender will also be its main investor.

The Task Force is an organization of leading Israeli and Jewish executives, most of them from the

U.S., Britain and France, who are working to help Israel reduce its trade deficit and dependence on outside aid.

The company, due to begin operating on February 1, will chiefly use the products of 10 leading Israeli food manufacturers, most of whom have already advised Lender of their intentions to join the company.

Gera said an international investment company, 20 per cent of whose capital was provided by the Clal Group and 80 per cent by Task Force members, was also formed last month to identify promising Israeli investment projects. Another investment company will help represent Israeli companies to potential investors, in an attempt to solve a problem frequently raised by American executives, namely that "Israeli

business people don't speak the same business language."

Israel's tourism industry received a severe blow from terrorism over the past year, but a leading American public relations firm is now examining an aggressive promotion campaign for tourism to Israel. Gera said. The campaign will focus on Israel's 40th anniversary celebrations.

Tel Aviv Stock Exchange

STATISTICS MARKET

Indices:

General Share Index	123.74	-0.09%
Non-Bank Index	164.86	-0.78%
Arrangement	108.42	-0.33%
Insurance	183.50	-1.22%
Commerce, Services	202.54	-1.08%
Real Estate	203.43	-1.20%
Industrials	148.20	-0.50%
Textiles	211.07	-1.10%
Metals	160.46	-0.70%
Electronics	103.84	-0.51%
Chemicals	137.90	-0.30%
Industrial Invest.	142.35	-0.07%
Investment Cos.	167.14	-1.08%
General Bond Index	114.52	+0.04%
Index-linked Bonds	116.17	+0.04%
Fully-linked	115.50	+0.19%
Partially-linked	115.50	+0.19%
Dollar-linked Bonds	93.48	-0.03%
Short-term 0-2 yrs	112.03	+0.16%
Medium-term 2-5 yrs	113.50	+0.15%
Long-term 5+ yrs	107.85	-0.17%

Turnovers:

Shares — total	NIS 9,231,000
Arrangement	NIS 1,444,500
Non-bank	NIS 7,786,100
Bond — total	NIS 7,717,800
Index-linked	NIS 6,571,500
Dollar-linked	NIS 1,145,500
Treasury Bills	NIS 53,467,900

Share Movements:

Advances	74	(184)
Declines	14	(26)
of which 5%+	1	(1)
"buyers only"	186	(57)
Declines	3	(14)
of which 5%+	1	(0)
"sellers only"	124	(113)
Unchanged	35	(25)
Trading Halt	—	—

Bond Market Trends:

Index-linked:	15.14%
3% fully-linked	Mixed to 1%

4.25% fully-linked

Stable/mixed to 3%	15.14%
Double-linked	Stable/mixed to 1%
Dollar-linked:	15.14%
Admon	Falls slightly
Rimon	Generally rises to 1%
For. denominated	Falls to 3%
Treasury Bills	Stable/rises to 2%
(annual yield)	20.00%-21.50%

Arrangement yields:

IDB arr.	15.95%
Clal arr.	15.31%
Discount A	15.94%
Mizrah	15.93%
Hapoelim r.	15.75%
General A	15.14%
Leumi stock	15.14%
Fin. Trade 1	15.40%

SELECTED PRICE QUOTATIONS

Name	Price	Volume	%
Main & Services			
Mali Extra	1270	1723	-3.1
Supersol 2	7390	1314	-
Delek r.	3389	2383	-0.6
Lightnagar	14700	25	-0.7
Cold Storage	2000	65	-0.0
Dan Hotels	1670	713	-1.8
Yarden Hotel	2920	67	-1.0
Hilon 1	23447	42	-10.0
Team 1	2000	4779	+2.6
Real Estate, Building and Agriculture			
Azorim	840	5037	-
Elion	570	8058	-1.7
Africa Int. 0.1	38080	115	+0.3
Desquett 0.1	4230	401	-0.2
Prop. & Bldg.	3270	3044	-0.5
Bayside 0.1	4505	430	-
ILDC r.	60880	75	-
Rasco r.	7590	21	-30.3
Mahadim	8049	25	-0.8
Hadarim	1370	3359	-0.9
Industrials			
Dubek b	3905	1513	-
Priz-2e 1	no trading	—	—
Sunroof	12150	154	-4.2
18040	892	—	—
Adgar	545	2440	+0.9
Argaman r.	17000	110	-2.3
Delta G 1	3037	1051	-1.9
Maquet 0.1	8230	533	-
Eagle 1	13800	84	-2.9
Polget	3767	480	-0.3
Schoellerlin	15000	48	+0.1
Rogovin	2900	1594	-1.7
Urden 0.1 r.	7800	223	-0.8
la. Can Co. 1	2550	1103	-2.7
Zion Cables	2365	500	-
Pecker Steel	13695	517	-
Elit	382000	14	-1.0
Investment Companies			
IDB Dev. r.	5110	2547	-1.0
Elion	3360	789	-3.2
ANK 1	240	3336	-
Gahelet	1500	307	-8.6
Israel Corp. 1	9810	556	+3.4
Wolfson 1 r.	108900	2	-10.0
Hapoelim Inv.	6887	1045	-1.5
Leumi Invest.	no trading	—	—
Discount Invest.	2930	6280	-0.8
Mizrah Invest.	22200	157	+5.7
Clal 10	895	1183	-2.3
Landeco 0.1	4250	100	-2.3
Pama 0.1	11220	132	+10.0
Oil Exploration			
Paz Oil Expl.	18500	82	-
J.O.E.L.	3698	1722	-3.1
Abbreviations:			
s.o. sellers only	b. buyers only	b. bearers	r. registered
Trade & Services			
Elron	311000	12	-1.3
Arit	32350	36	-
Clal Electronics	2095	2532	-
Spectronix 1	2050	1396	-
T.A.T. 1	4653	228	+10.0
Ackarstein 1	890	3613	-0.6
Agan 5	17200	30	-3.2
Almora	2420	280	-0.2
Dexter	3310	300	-
Fertilisers	5100	42	-1.0
Hafit Chem.	8230	1018	-1.2
Teva r.	4550	1461	-
Petrochem.	587	17357	-1.5
Neca Chem.	8085	1783	-0.2
Frutarom	13800	47	-6.1
Hadera Paper	26800	62	-0.4
Central Trade	9480	136	-0.1
Koor p.	6770000	0.6	+1.0
Clal Inds.	1545	18376	-

P & W sets terms for Beit Shemesh buyer

Post Economic Staff
Pratt and Whitney yesterday gave the government a one-month deadline to sell off state-owned Beit Shemesh Engines, or face the prospect of the American company's severing its link with the ailing jet engine maker.

At a meeting with Economic Affairs Minister Gad Ya'acobi and Minister without Portfolio Moshe

Arens, Pratt and Whitney Vice President Bernard Edelman said his company would maintain its association with Beit Shemesh only if it was sold to a private concern.

Israel Radio reported that Pratt and Whitney, which had invested \$10 million in Beit Shemesh, would not accept another government company as a buyer, including Israel Aircraft Industries Ltd.

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

SHEKEL INTEREST RATES
PRIME BORROWING RATE: 1.58% per month
Unlinked Deposit (Annual Rates)

LEUMI	Last Updated	Types	Pakam 7-Day	Pakam 30-Day
HAPOLIM	20.11	7-15.00%	11-17.50%	13-18.00%
DISCOUNT	19.11	10-16.50%	10-16.50%	14-20%
MIZRAHI	1.12	8-17%	6-17.50%	6-19.50%
FIRST INTL	11.11	10-16%	11-17.20%	13-19.50%

Rates vary according to size of deposit.
(Types: demand deposit paying daily interest.
Pakam: fixed-term deposit available from 7 to 59 days.)

PATAH — FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSIT RATES (December 3)

MINIMUM DEP	3-MONTHS	6-MONTHS	12-MONTHS
USD (\$100,000)	5.375	5.375	5.375
STG (10,000 pounds)	9.750	9.675	9.750
DMK (100,000 marks)	3.875	3.750	3.875
SFR (50,000 francs)	3.000	3.000	3.000
YEN (3,000,000 yen)	2.875	2.875	2.875

Rates vary according to size of deposit and are subject to change.

SHEKEL FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES (December 3)

		CHEQUES AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES		Rep.
		Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	Rates
Currency basket		1.4840	1.5020			1.4838
U.S.A. Dollar		1.4742	1.4926	1.44	1.50	1.4840
Deutschmark		1.7442	1.7535	0.73	0.78	1.7436
Pound Sterling		2.1096	2.1359	2.06	2.14	2.1291
French Franc		2.272	2.2300	0.22	0.23	0.2287
Japanese Yen	100	0.0089	0.9202	0.89	0.92	0.9144
Dutch Florin		0.0084	0.6566	0.84	0.67	0.6829
Swiss Franc		0.8929	0.9041	0.87	0.91	0.8986
Swedish Krone		0.2139	0.2166	0.21	0.22	0.2153
Norwegian Krone		0.1970	0.1995	0.19	0.20	0.1983
Danish Krone		0.1972	0.1996	0.18	0.20	0.1984
Finnish Mark		0.3017	0.3055	0.29	0.31	0.3037
Canadian Dollar		1.0656	1.0789	1.04	1.08	1.0728
Australian Dollar		0.9512	0.9732	0.91	1.00	0.9675
S. African Rand		0.6663	0.6747	0.43	0.52	0.6714
Belgian Franc	10	0.3552	0.3597	0.34	0.36	0.3582
Austrian Shilling		1.0767	1.0709	1.03	1.08	1.0644
Italian Lira	1000	1.0737	1.0871	1.04	1.10	1.0808
Jordanian Dinar		—	—	4.04	4.29	4.2146
Egyptian Pound		—	—	0.73	0.78	0.7939
ECU		1.5475	1.5668			1.5579

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Founded in 1932 by GERSHON AGRON, who was Editor until 1955; Editor 1955-1974
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Why must women retire at 60?

IT IS A TRUTH almost universally acknowledged that basic concepts of morality and law are subject to change. What only yesterday was considered perfectly just need not be considered just today, or at least not entirely just. An arrangement once held to be fully consonant with the principle that all men and women are born equal and must be treated as such, may well be found to be discriminatory with the passage of time.

A case in point is the early retirement age forced on women employees in this country.

When, some decades ago, the Histadrut established it as a regular feature of collective labour agreements that women workers should retire at 60, five years earlier than men, it was viewed as a mighty blow on behalf of women's rights. The argument was that, although the sexes are legally equal, they are also different and have different needs that must be given different expression. Thus, if it was no denial of female equality to allow women paid leave after giving birth, and then an extended leave without pay as well, this was also considered to hold true for early retirement.

There was no gainsaying that women merited a special measure of protection as workers, and even the Women's Equal Rights Law, enacted in 1951, stipulated that it "shall not derogate from any provision of law protecting women as women."

Early retirement was supposed to protect women by letting them quit work more-or-less jointly with their usually somewhat older husbands.

But in recent years a large number of Israeli women have come to view many of those "protective" privileges as burdens and discrimination, and not least the rule of mandatory retirement at sixty. The realization dawned that, with an already shorter work span than men's, due to the exigencies of motherhood, women were also being robbed of five more years of often productive and satisfying employment - and of the extra income and larger pensions that went with them.

Naturally enough, it was women professionals who spearheaded the fight for the equalization of retirement age. The first group to win it were the Hadassah Medical Organization's women professors, early last year. But their court victory, due largely to their small number, did not translate into any general revolution. A similar attempt by a woman sociologist in the service of the Jewish Agency to win the right to retire at 65 has come a cropper.

Dr. Naomi Nevo, having failed to induce the seemingly sympathetic parties to the Agency's collective agreement to take practical action in her case, sought aid from the Tel Aviv Labour Court. She got nowhere. Judge Edna Gavriel ruled last November that, "consistent with the policy of Israeli courts," her court too would "not intervene in the autonomy of those concerned to determine the substance of the labour agreement between them."

On Monday Dr. Nevo's challenge to that ruling in the National Labour Court was thrown out by a vote of five to one, and with a similar explanation.

The court acknowledged that the self-denying edict against intervention in collective labour agreements allowed exceptions, as in a case where a woman employee was denied a promotion she clearly would have won if she were a man. But discrimination in setting a different retirement age for men and women was no discrimination. The proof: it is not specifically barred by existing Israeli legislation and court practice, and by existing international labour conventions.

What the court strangely ignored was recent profound re-evaluation of the concept of discrimination in western law, which has led to the widespread banning of a different retirement age for men and women in the EEC countries - and by the EEC itself - as well as in U.S. and Japan. In arguing, and rightly so, that numerous women could be injured by having their retirement put off until they reached 65, the court also ignored Dr. Nevo's alternative suggestion that retirement at that age be declared merely optional, and not mandatory, for women.

If, however, the High Court does not reverse the National Labour Court's ruling, it will remain the law of the land. It could then be made inoperative in only two ways: either by a wholesale revision of collective labour agreements, which would depend mainly on the Histadrut; or through Knesset legislation. One way or another, this should be done, and done now.

The forced retirement of women at 60 is not any special right. It has become a simple wrong.

NIR

(Continued from Page One)

asked Israel to allow American investigators to question officials involved.

The Iranian arms imbroglio was a major subject of discussion at the meeting yesterday between Shamir and U.S. Ambassador Thomas Pickering. But officials declined to comment further on its content.

Speaking to Israel Radio on Tuesday night, Pickering said: "I think there are at this point differing statements but they are not necessarily incompatible and we want to wait and see what the investigation produces."

Sources in Jerusalem again emphasized yesterday that the Iranian arms affair continued to be viewed by political America yesterday as an American affair. The "Israeli angle" received little mention, with Israel coming in for practical

cally no criticism, they said.

Uri Lubrani, who was Israel's last ambassador to Teheran before the overthrow of the Shah, said yesterday that he believed it was Israel's duty to search for bridges with the Iranian people, because "the day will come when our ties with them will be renewed."

Lubrani, currently coordinator of activities in Lebanon, served in Iran for six years. Speaking at the Tel Aviv University's Dayan Centre, he said: "I believe the glamour and the visibility of Khomeini's revolution are dimming, and a new reality is being shaped in Iran."

He said Israel and Iran have some basic mutual interests, such as "defence against Arab hostility, which the Iranians face just as we do." He added that he envisioned diminished hatred towards Israel in Iran in the future.

PERETZ

(Continued from Page One)

ham Shapiro yesterday told The Jerusalem Post that the chief rabbis in fact agreed with the High Court decision that it was wrong to indicate "Jew (convert)" on an identity card. "For kosher converts it's wrong to remind them that they're converts, and for the others it's wrong to say that they are Jews at all," he said.

Shapiro said that the rabbis had been unhappy with the situation before Peretz's "solution" (adding "convert" to the identity card) but that the change suggested by the Interior Minister would only have made the situation worse. As to whether Peretz should resign, Shapiro said: "He's an adult and a rabbi; he must decide. I don't give advice if

I am not asked."

In any case, he added, the rabbinical courts have long felt that an identity card could not serve as evidence, be it of Jewishness, marital status, or even age. But it was the practice, he added, for rabbinical courts to call for the Interior Ministry file of any marriage candidate about whom there was a question.

Shapiro did not feel that the High Court decision was a victory for the Reform Movement in Israel. As to a statement by a Reform leader that now thousands of Reform converts would come, he said: "Why the converts? All the kosher Reform Jews should come and we will welcome them."

Arrogance & ignorance

Gerald M. Steinberg

REVELATIONS of arms sales to Iran have seriously damaged both the United States and Israel, and embarrassed their respective political leaders. In Washington, President Reagan and his National Security Council appear naive and incompetent, and the triumvirate leading the unity government in Jerusalem does not look much better.

While American involvement in this sordid endeavour may have been greater, the U.S. will no doubt recover with little long-term damage. Despite our pretensions, however, Israel is not a superpower, and the long-term effects of this international bumbling on our relations with the U.S. and with the countries in the region could be disastrous.

Nevertheless, the reaction in Washington has been much stronger than that in Jerusalem. Two members of Reagan's staff have been unceremoniously dismissed, and an independent commission of inquiry has been created. In Israel, each new bombshell from abroad is met by another hurried conference of Shamir, Peres and Rabin, who issue a cryptic statement.

It seems that we have become accustomed to periodic bumbling and incompetence and even expect it from our leaders. After all, the Israeli political system managed to sweep the Shin Bet scandal, the Pollard affair, the Vanunu fiasco, and now the image of Israel as the instigator in America's Iranian disaster all under the massive "national security" rug. In the Shin Bet case, some members of the security services were dismissed, and in the Pollard affair, Rafael Eitan was moved to the management of Israel Chemicals. A few heads may roll in the Vanunu and Iran cases as well.

THESE personnel changes, however, will not solve the underlying problems of management and control in the Israeli government. Although the decision makers responsible blame "a string of bad luck," these events all demonstrate major failures in judgment and a lack of professional capabilities and skills at the highest levels.

Eitan should never have been allowed to recruit Pollard to spy for Israel. Anyone with a basic knowledge of American politics and the sensitivities of Congress and the public, including those of Israel's major supporters, would have realized the repercussions of such an

operation. Whatever information Pollard may have supplied could not have made up for the damage to Israel's image in the long term.

Similarly, the Iranian arms sales operations demonstrate a high degree of high-level incompetence. Aside from the moral and political implications for Israel which make such dealings with the mullahs very questionable, the links with the U.S. are again the central issue. In the U.S., Israel now appears to play the part of the cunning agent provocateur, leading the innocent but well-intentioned Reagan administration into the Iranian morass. These actions were in violation of U.S. law and of the clear will of Congress, and here again, the long-term damage to Israel is incalculable. Even if those Americans who are still sympathetic to Israel can be convinced that Israel did not know of the illegal transfer of funds to the Contras, the image of a dangerous adventurer remains.

In Washington, the Iranian affair is likely to result in a thorough housecleaning and administrative reform. To prevent further naive bumbling, the National Security Council's ability to run such furtive operations will be restricted, and the State Department's role strengthened. Other forms of checks and balances, including Congressional oversight, will also be reinforced.

However, if the past is any guide, nothing of the sort will happen in Jerusalem. As long as the administrative chaos and free-for-all which marks policy in critical areas such as relations with the U.S. and the related issue of arms sales are not subject to fundamental reform, such disasters will recur.

INSTITUTIONAL reform must begin by accepting the need for a system of formal procedures and oversight. As many critics of the unity government have noted, the leadership operates without even a minimal level of external review. The Knesset, even in the best of times, is largely impotent, and its committees are understaffed and peripheral. In many domestic issues, countervailing political and other forces can act to check government policy, preventing hasty and ill-considered policy decisions. The sensitivity of national security issues, however, has allowed the govern-

ment to take decisions largely in secret, in many cases, without the knowledge of even the cabinet. Many such decisions are taken informally, and left to shadowy agents to interpret and carry out. The formal instruments of government are largely excluded, and supervision is impossible. This process, in and of itself, is a source of weakness and leads to ill-conceived government policy.

These problems are enhanced by the well-known combination of Israeli arrogance and ignorance. The American political system, for example, is highly complex and the subtleties and nuances are often difficult to comprehend. For some, this complexity serves as a warning to proceed cautiously and seek the advice of experts. But many Israelis assume that somehow they have a unique insight and can dispense with professionals.

During his stint as ambassador to the United States during the War of Attrition, Yitzhak Rabin, with almost no diplomatic experience, thought he understood the U.S. well enough to ignore warnings regarding Israeli action and independently interpret signals and hints. Assuming he understood the U.S. better than the Americans themselves, his conclusions regarding U.S. attitudes were incorrect.

In 1982, U.S. secretary of state Alexander Haig may have signalled some form of approval for a Lebanese incursion, but Haig's clear isolation and lack of support in the Reagan administration was not recognized by the Israeli government.

In the Pollard case and Iranian arms deal, it is also quite clear that those Israelis who made decisions dispensed with professional assessments of the risks involved.

Together, this combination of willful ignorance and independent decision-making is extremely dangerous, as has been seen in recent foreign policy disasters. Only a thorough institutional reform, barring even top political leaders from taking decisions independently and without benefit of competent advice and oversight, will reduce the number of such incidents. Such institutional reform will not put an end to officials' lack of foresight, and some mistakes must still be expected, but at least there will be a longer period to recover between follies.

The writer is a member of the political science departments at Hebrew University and Bar Ilan University.

READERS' LETTERS

SPINOZA SOCIETY

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post
Sir, - For those of us working to promote Spinoza's studies in Israel as a way of bringing this great philosopher back to his people, Michael Finkel's letter (of November 20) came as a pleasant and welcome, if somewhat uninformed, encouragement.

Actually, a Spinoza Institute is now being set up in Jerusalem. It will work together with the Hebrew University's own Spinoza Research Programme (inaugurated two years ago in the presence of representatives of the Dutch and French Spinoza societies), in conducting the Jeru-

salem International Spinoza Symposium series of bi-annual conferences planned until the year 2,000.

The first event in these series, in which a group of leading scholars worldwide will participate, will take place this April 1-6, in conjunction with The Jerusalem International Book and Mishkenot Sha'ananim.

Mr. Finkel and everyone interested in this new institute's work are invited to write for further information to the Spinoza Institute in Mishkenot Sha'ananim, P.O.B. 8215, Jerusalem 91081.

Professor YIRMIYAHU YOVEL
Jerusalem.

SHAME ON US

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post
Sir, - We Jews have heard it in Latin, Provencal, langue d'Oc in Norman English, Portuguese, Spanish, Russian, Ukrainian, Polish, Lithuanian, Romanian, Polish, German: "Death to the Jews! Kill them!"

Now, when, for once, we are the majority, we want to have a go at it: "Death to the Arabs! Kill them!"

It cannot happen here? But it is already happening.

And just as in Germany and Austria, when brown-shirted thugs rampaged through the streets, burning and breaking and looting, our clergy and our burghers look the other way; they don't want to see;

they don't want to hear. And when the time comes and the mob's leaders face their judges - hopefully before a Jewish court - and witnesses are called, then the rabbis and all the well-meaning burghers will say: "We did not know, we have seen nothing. The Arabs probably had it coming to them."

As for me, I do not want to feel ashamed of being a Jew in Israel. Therefore, I publicly dissociate myself from the silent chief rabbis and the not-so-silent rabble-rousers, the Peretzkes, the Levingers, and the Kahanes. We don't belong to the same people!

BERTHOLD WYLER
Jerusalem.

SPOTLIGHT ON ISRAEL

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post
Sir, - Israel is everywhere. The accusation that Israel is helping anti-government rebels in Mozambique, based on a report that a body wearing the Star of David was found among dead MNR guerrillas, appeared recently in a British paper, as reported by you on November 30. This is just one shot in a salvo of exaggerations and misinformation levelled recently at Israel by the international media.

Medium-size consignments of arms from Israel to Iran make front-page headlines. Massive shipments of weaponry worth billions of dollars

sent to Iran by China, South Korea and even the Soviet Union despite its treaty commitment in Iraq, are hardly mentioned.

The eagle eye of the newsman can spot Israeli alleged involvements in countries as far as Nicaragua and Sri Lanka, yet fails to see 50 ships anchored in nearby Akaba harbour with loads of arms for Iraq.

One is led to believe that the arm of the small Mossad is longer and stretches farther than that of the mighty KGB or the CIA.

ELIYAHU TAL
Tel Aviv.

THE DEMJANJUK DEFENCE

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post
Sir, - Although Ernie Meyer's articles on the Demjanjuk case have been balanced and professional, his report of November 18 requires brief comment. I refer to his observation that the defence lawyer "has still not found an Israeli lawyer to his liking to assist him."

It may be of interest in this regard that after numerous discussions with fellow members of the Israel Bar, I have come to appreciate the plight of my Israeli colleagues in this matter. To associate with the Demjanjuk defence means weeks or months of intensive pre-trial preparation, followed by lengthy court sessions. It means the possibility of having to cross-examine elderly survivor witnesses about their Holocaust experiences.

It means the loss of clients, present and future. It means that the advocate and his family might be in physical danger. At the very least, it means that the doors of the Israeli advocate's office will be closed virtually for months with resultant loss of income.

Those Israeli lawyers who have considered taking on these hardships and uncertainties insist that they are entitled to substantial compensation of at least \$250,000 or more, and rightly so. Idealism, no matter how lofty, doesn't pay the electric bills.

On the other hand, the Justice Ministry of Israel and the court have ruled that substantial financial support is not available in this case. The Demjanjuk family is completely destitute and financial assistance from supporters in the United States has not been forthcoming.

Therefore, the fact that I have not yet found an Israeli attorney does not imply that the outstanding lawyers I have consulted with in Israel are not to my liking. On the contrary, they have my complete respect and grateful friendship for even considering an association with me in this emotionally charged litigation.

MARK J. O'CONNOR
Jerusalem.

Raoul Wallenberg Is Alive!

We have positive evidence to confirm this fact.

We shall publish this evidence in a new book due to appear in January 1987. In the light of this up-to-date evidence, we appeal to Mikhail and Raisa Gorbachev to release the 75-year-old hero and bring joy to Wallenberg's family, the family of thousands of Jews he saved, and the family of humanity. Such an action will bring great credit to you and the Soviet Union. You will answer the prayers of millions, and earn the gratitude of the whole human race.

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"For the Lord will not cast off his people, neither will he forsake his inheritance."

Dry Bones



A credit risk

J. Voet

THE WORLD of the plastic credit card is expanding by leaps and bounds. It is estimated that nearly 250 million people use this handy little payment device. Worldwide, there are 132 million Visa cards in the hands of the public. Eurocard is second with 90 million users. The smaller companies in this card game, American Express and Diners Club, have respectively 19 million and 5 million customers.

The number of enterprises accepting the card instead of hard cash is also in seven figures, with about one million companies working with American Express and Diners Club. The two giants count more than four million firms each as their customers. One cannot, of course, add up these figures as one firm may, and often does, honour cards of all four credit card companies, and perhaps also a few of the smaller credit businesses operating in this field.

To succeed so rapidly, the credit card must not only be handy and practical, but it must fulfil a real need. In some countries it has become nearly a necessity of life.

THE CREDIT card, however, has an ugly other side, theft. Stolen cards cost the firms issuing the card many millions of dollars each year. Enterprises who accept the card can also lose money. No figures are being published, but it is common knowledge that the losses are very substantial.

There are even people who make a business of buying credit cards from people who have "found" one, or from professional thieves. They sell the cards to their customers for amounts varying from \$100 to \$1,000 depending on the quality of the card, the registration, the timing of the theft, and the nationality and residence of the owner.

The card holder who discovers that his credit card is no longer in his possession must notify his bank or the company immediately. The card is then blocked and the outlets are informed that the card number is no longer valid.

Those lists of stolen or lost cards are usually sent by mail and may take some time before they reach the shops.

Meantime, the illegal holder of the card can make purchases. They are automatically debited to the account of the legal holder. However, if he can prove that someone else has made unauthorized use of his credit card, he is reimbursed. By contract, his risk originating from illegal use is limited to a relatively modest amount. Only if the company can prove that the credit card

customer has been negligent in reporting the loss, may it refuse to reimburse the customer. Usually the credit card company bears the brunt of the losses. The shop selling the goods is always paid, except in cases where the clerk failed to check the blacklist. Then, it must accept the loss.

MORE complicated credit card frauds often originate in the department of the organizations dispatching the cards. Unused cards without a signature have a high price. The unreliable staff member who drops such a card "by mistake" in the post office box of a credit card dealer can expect to be paid nicely for his "service."

Dealers in lost or stolen credit cards usually keep contact with people who are in a position to find the cards, for example, attendants at fuel stations, or dishonest employees in police, lost and found departments. Theoretically every item delivered at these offices has to be entered in books. In practice this is not always done.

THESE are all drawbacks of the credit card system. In exceptional cases, other disadvantages of the plastic card payment system may become apparent. During the Lebanon war, many young soldiers' parents were sent to the post office to have their credit cards cancelled. As a result, involving in Israel by computers was thrown out of kilter. Debiting customer accounts was held up and took many months to catch up again. With inflation running high, the credit card companies lost a great deal of money.

The risks being so great, it is small wonder that the companies are fighting back in an effort to limit thefts to bearable proportions. In order to eliminate theft of new cards, delivery has in many cases been taken out of the hands of the postal service and entrusted to banks. Special investigation squads have been set up to deal with credit card dealers. Nevertheless, illegal use of credit cards continues on a grand scale.

The card holder's signature has proved to be no protection against illegal use. It can be too easily forged. If the birthdate of the legal owner were put on the card, it would at least limit illegal use to persons of about the same age. An additional safeguard would be to add a small photo of the owner. But apparently this is thought to be too complicated. Whatever devices are used, credit cards create possibilities of easy thefts.

The writer is a commentator on economic affairs.

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